

Jordan Times

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Templeton Prize awarded to Muslim

NEW YORK (AP) — Ismail Khan of Pakistan won the 1988 Templeton Prize Wednesday for promoting interreligious cooperation. It is the first Muslim to win the \$350,000 international award. It is the highest prize given in the world, about \$40,000 more than the Nobel prizes in science and literature. Announcement of this year's winner was made at a news conference at Manhattan's Church Centre of the United Nations. Khan, 75, a founder and secretary-general of the World Muslim Congress, was cited for his "tireless work as a coordinator for peace between Muslims, Christians and Jews." Khan, of Karachi, also is chairman of the executive committee of the International World Conference on Religion and Peace, presiding at meetings around the world. The annual prize, established in 1972 by American financier John Templeton, is given to recognise those "who through original and pioneering ways advanced the knowledge and love of God." The 1988 prize is to be presented May 10 by England's princess Alexandra at London's Guild Hall.

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Regent visits airbase

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, paid a field visit Wednesday to one of the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) bases. The Regent received upon arrival by the base's commander and high-ranking officers who briefed the Crown Prince on the base's activities, duties and training programmes. Prince Hassan toured several sections of the base and inspected training activities there.

Israel not to take part in Cairo fair

CAIRO (R) — Israel will not take part in Egypt's International Trade Fair this year for the first time since the two countries established diplomatic ties nine years ago, an embassy spokesman said Wednesday. "We are not participating this year in Cairo's trade fair," a spokesman told Reuters. He declined to comment when asked if the decision was taken for security reasons. The two-week fair opens March 12. An Israeli woman embassy official was shot dead in 1986 as she left the fair ground with three colleagues.

PLO says it will unveil kidnappers

OSLO (R) — A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday that it would reveal the identity of the kidnappers of two Scandinavian U.N. aid workers as soon as it was safe to do so. In an interview with the Norwegian news agency NTB, Omar Khatib, PLO representative in Norway, denied allegations that the kidnappers were Palestinian. He spoke after the two men were released in Beirut Tuesday night after 26 days of captivity (see page 2). "The PLO knows the identity of the kidnappers and will make it known when it is sure that there can be no reprisals against Norwegians or other Scandinavians in Lebanon," he said.

U.N. envoy begins talks in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — A new United Nations special representative, opening a fresh drive to end the 14-year-old division of Cyprus, held his first talks with Cypriot President George Vassiliou Wednesday. Argentine diplomat Oscar Camilion told reporters he did not present any new initiative but used the 40-minute meeting to explore the newly-elected president's views on the problem.

Chad says Libya braced for new attack

ABIDJAN (AP) — A Libyan column of more than 2,000 soldiers has entered northwestern Sudan to launch an offensive against Chad, the official Radio station of Chad said Tuesday night. Chad's Ndjamena radio, monitored in Abidjan, said the troops joined thousands of other soldiers already stationed in Sudan's Dafour province "with the complicity of the Khartoum authorities." The radio said Libya was planning an attack even as a special Organisation of African Unity committee was preparing to meet in Dakar, Senegal, April 10 to negotiate a settlement in the Chad-Libya conflict.

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Israeli troops attack Ramallah hospital, raid 'Ain Arik village

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Dozens of elderly patients streamed out of Ramallah hospital Wednesday, coughing and covering their faces with cloths after Israeli soldiers fired tear-gas into the building for the second straight day.

Palestinians hurled firebombs overnight at Israeli army patrols in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Two firebombs also were thrown at a hotel in Bethlehem.

In Ramallah, 12 kilometres north of Jerusalem, soldiers fired at least six tear-gas canisters at Palestinian protesters who blocked a street outside the government-run hospital with rocks and twisted metal and hurled stones at a dozen soldiers.

One smoking canister landed in the emergency room reception area and a second landed in the hospital courtyard.

Two doctors donned gas masks and others held onions to their noses to counter the effect of the gas. About 30 patients, including old men with canes, used keffiyehs and headscarves to cover their faces.

"Even the doctors couldn't breathe, so imagine the effects on the patients inside, many of whom are seriously ill," one middle-aged doctor, who declined to be identified, told the AP at the scene.

NATO opens summit

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders began a rare summit in Brussels Wednesday with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his European allies proclaiming the strength and unity of the Western alliance, diplomats said.

The 16 heads of government were determined to mask their differences over nuclear weapons at the two-day meeting and impress both Moscow and Western public opinion by taking the initiative over arms control.

At the formal public opening ceremony at the NATO headquarters, guarded by some 1,500 paramilitary police brought in from all over Belgium, NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington told the leaders:

"We meet at a time of achievement, though much remains to be done, and for charting the way ahead."

"When it comes to serious proposals for balanced and verifiable arms control, we must remember that it is the alliance which has set the agenda, made the running, and will continue to do so," he added.

Diplomats said Reagan, who was first to speak at the closed-door working session of the first full NATO summit in six years, pledged to keep U.S. troops in Europe for as long as they were needed.

Then French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl congratulated the 77-year-old Reagan for the treaty he signed last December with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Carrington stressed that NATO must maintain a strong defence against the Soviet Union, contending that even under Gorbachev's leadership it denied basic human rights and freedoms to its own people.

Capanna of the leftist Proletarian Democratic Movement, is visiting the occupied territories on a study mission.

Israeli police arrived on the scene, and when they discovered Capanna's identity left without interviewing. Capanna and his two friends remained attached to the pole for hours, police said.

'Ain Arik stormed

Israeli troops raided overnight the West Bank village of 'Ain Arik which had declared itself "liberated" and they arrested Palestinians accused of attacking cars from a nearby Jewish settlement, sources quoted by Reuters said.

Last week, residents erected stone barricades, raised the Palestinian flag and declared their village a "liberated zone."

Palestinians stoned and wrecked cars from the nearby Jewish settlement, a local committee organised a 24-hour vigil and virtually the whole village fought a pitched battle with soldiers, residents said.

When an Israeli military force arrived early Wednesday morning to make arrests, watchmen warned villagers and none of those whom the army sought were found, residents said. The army nevertheless made several arrests.

In Jerusalem, police arrested 15 Jewish art students who demonstrated on a main street against Israel.

The parliamentarian, Mario

Cordovez voices optimism as Afghan talks resume

GENEVA (AP) — The nearly six-year-old Afghanistan peace talks entered a crucial phase Wednesday with U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez voicing new optimism that they will produce a settlement ending one of the bloodiest conflicts since World War II.

Cordovez said "difficult" problems remained, but he had a "sense of confidence" that they would be solved. He said the talks were "real determination" and a "political will" on both sides to have a final accord as soon as possible.

He said the new round would "last as long as necessary" to complete the settlement. "Perhaps it will be signed earlier than you think," he added.

Without naming Pakistan, he made plain that he did not share the fears voiced by Islamabad that the settlement would not end the bloodshed unless it was coupled with the formation of a broad-based Kabul government,

Egyptian officials question defected Libyan airmen

CAIRO (R) — Four Libyan pilots who flew their Soviet-made warplanes to Egypt were questioned by officials Wednesday about their reported defection, which was certain to aggravate ill-feeling between Cairo and Tripoli.

The government clamped a news blackout on the case and official sources said ministers were awaiting Tripoli's reaction before commenting.

Egyptian fighters scrambled to intercept the four Libyan MiG-23s when they approached the heavily-defended border Tuesday, the state-owned evening newspaper, Al-Messa, said.

The Libyans were allowed to land at a western desert base after asking for asylum, it said. Government sources said they were later flown to Cairo for questioning.

Egypt granted asylum to five Libyan servicemen in similar cir-

replacing the present one backed by an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops.

"I have the impression that the Afghan people is tired of this conflict, that they will want peace," he said. "When the Soviet Union last year mentioned the possibility of a massacre, of (a) bloodbath, the answer was the way to put an end to it was the withdrawal of their forces."

Cordovez did not specify what difficult problems remained, citing a need for confidentiality that would allow the parties to be "flexible."

He spoke at a crowded news conference shortly before starting his shuttle between the Pakistani and the Afghan delegations seated in separate rooms in the Palais des Nations, the Geneva office of the United Nations.

Cordovez met first with the four-men Pakistani delegation, headed by acting Foreign Minister Zain Noorani.

circumstances last year and President Hosni Mubarak indicated the response would be the same this time.

"Let them land, they are welcome. It (Egypt) is also their country," he said Tuesday night after returning from talks in Sudan.

Mubarak added that the government was studying the case. Egypt and Libya fought a brief border war in 1977 and their mutual hostility remains. Several prominent Libyans opposed to Colonel Muammar Qadhafi live in Egypt.

Tuesday's flight was the first to Egypt by Libyan pilots of advanced combat planes and the first by several aircraft at one time.

Mubarak dampened speculation that his surprise visit to Khartoum, his first in three years, was linked to rivalry with Libya for influence with the coalition government of Sudan.

Shultz to return to Mideast

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan, stepping up American peace efforts in the Middle East, Wednesday directed Secretary of State George Shultz to return to the region for further talks with Arab and Israeli leaders.

Reagan acted after receiving a report from Shultz on his four days of diplomatic shuttling in the area and a session Tuesday in London with His Majesty King Hussein.

"All countries in the region believe it is useful for the United States to remain engaged in this process," Reagan said. "We will spare no effort in our search for a comprehensive settlement."

Shultz will leave from Brussels after the wrap-up of a NATO summit meeting Thursday. He is expected to make stops in Israel, Jordan and Egypt before returning to Washington next weekend.

The U.S. initiative, prompted by the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, builds on previous U.S. ideas for limited Palestinian "self-rule" followed by a definitive regional accord.

Shultz said after leaving Tel Aviv Tuesday that no party to the Arab-Israeli conflict had fully endorsed the new U.S. proposals, but all countries were encouraging the United States to continue its efforts.

'More visible role'

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters in Brussels: "The president has said on a number of occasions... that the United States wanted a more visible role in the Middle East in terms of trying to be helpful."

Secretary Shultz has certainly done yeoman's work in his diplomacy of recent days."

Leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Syria have all told Shultz that they favour an international conference, but the United States prefers direct Arab-Israeli talks to a conference.

Arab countries also want the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to attend a conference as the representative of Palestinians, but Israel rejects any contact with the PLO.

Shultz used his time in the region last week to speak publicly in favour of granting increased political and economic rights to Palestinians in the occupied territories, but 15 Palestinians refused an invitation to meet him in Arab Jerusalem.

Shultz has avoided calling his initiative a formal peace plan, but told reporters Tuesday that the time would come soon when the Reagan administration would have to state its preferences to Israel and Arab countries.

His Majesty King Hussein told Shultz in London that Jordan believed an international conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council was the best way to achieve peace.

"His Majesty indicated to the American secretary of state that the elements of these new American ideas required development to correspond with the requirements for a just and durable peace," the Jordanian embassy in London said in a statement.

Mubarak: U.S. ideas unknown

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday a U.S. peace package for the Middle East would be presented to the parties concerned within two days.

He told reporters on his return to Cairo from a surprise visit to Sudan he did not know the contents of the package but added that the way to a comprehensive settlement was

Casualties unknown in fierce 'war of cities' Iraqi missiles hammer Tehran; Iranians reply with rockets

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said it unleashed six missiles at Iranian cities Wednesday, striking for the first time the holy city of Qom, seat of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's religious hierarchy.

Iran said it retaliated by firing three missiles into Baghdad, bringing the total to eight since Monday. Iraq said it had fired 20 missiles into Tehran and two into Qom in the same three days.

Both sides reported civilian casualties in their capital cities, and Iran said Iraqi warplanes also raided a northern village near Rasht 240 kilometres northeast of Tehran.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the Iranian rockets killed or wounded a number of civilians and demolished houses and shops in residential neighbourhoods of Baghdad.

Iran said Wednesday's hits on Tehran wounded 15 people, bringing casualties there since Monday to 27 killed and 115 wounded, with another five people killed in the air raid on the village.

It said no one was hurt in the attacks on Qom.

Iraq vows continued barrage

A Baghdad military spokesman said Wednesday Iraq would continue pumping missiles into Tehran until Iranian leaders accepted a U.N. Security Council demand for a ceasefire.

Baghdad accepts the order but Iran first wants Iraq to be branded "the aggressor" in the war.

An Iraqi military spokesman said: "Iranian rulers are still clinging to war and curse peace, therefore Iraq is practising its

right to deter the Iranian regime and protect its citizens and the country's security."

The spokesman said after the latest missile smashed into Baghdad: "We will continue to pound their nests and punish them."

"It is time for the Tehran regime to put an end to this unjustified war," the spokesman said.

Western military analysts believe the Iraqi missiles are Soviet-made Scud-Bs fitted with strap-on boosters to give them enough range to hit Tehran 465 kilometres from the Iraqi border.

The missile strikes on Qom were the first ever, although in January 1987 Iraqi warplanes repeatedly bombed the city, which is about as far from the border as Tehran.

The city of 250,000 people is

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. votes 143-1 asking U.S. to submit to binding arbitration in dispute over PLO

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations voted 143-1 on Wednesday for the United States to submit to binding arbitration their worst confrontation ever — a dispute over closing the observer mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel cast the only negative vote.

The assembly also voted 142-0 for a resolution asking the World Court in The Hague for a ruling on whether the United States has the right to refuse arbitration.

The United States, which has not yet moved to close the PLO mission, did not vote, saying it considered the emergency meeting of the 159-nation assembly

"premature and unnecessary."

The United States has rebuffed arbitration on the same grounds.

"It remains the intention of this government to find an appropriate resolution to this problem in light of the Charter of the United Nations, the headquarters agreement and the laws of the United States," U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun told the assembly after the vote.

The resolutions were sponsored by the Soviet Union, which accused the United States of "lawlessness," several Soviet allies, members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Philippines, a U.S. ally.

The resolutions say closing the mission would violate the 1947

treaty under which the United States became U.N. headquarters. The pact provides for binding arbitration.

Closing the mission would undermine the independence of the world body, said scores of organisations and nations, including most of America's closest allies, during the three-day emergency session.

Many said the move was further eroding the already diminished U.S. prestige at the world body. Others warned it could cripple American peace efforts.

So far, the United States has denied there is a dispute on the grounds that an order to close down the PLO mission has not been formally issued.

Underground leaders steer, sustain Palestinian uprising

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

OCUPATED JERUSALEM — Almost unnoticed, a 12-week-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza has given birth to the beginnings of a Palestinian self-assertion.

A clandestine network of self-help committees is sustaining the revolt, which Israeli and Palestinian sources say has taken on an air of performance.

The committees direct food and money to families of those killed, wounded or arrested in the uprising, pay lawyers' fees and determine the hours at which striking shopkeepers are allowed to open for business.

The West Bank has been transformed into a different world in the last three months. The Israelis no longer control it except where their soldiers are physically present," said Sami Al Aboudi, a Palestinian journalist.

What began last December as a spontaneous revolt against 20 years of Israeli occupation, starting the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab states as much as the Israeli army and police, is now an increasingly organised, methodical insurrection.

Leaflets signed by an underground "Unified Nations Leadership of the Popular Uprising" prescribe varied forms of protest, including strikes, a tax boycott and action against those who collaborate with Israel's secret police.

Composition

Palestinian sources say the clandestine leadership is composed of hard-core activists of the four main PLO factions — the mainstream Fateh, the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Palestine Communist Party.

Israeli security sources cast doubt on the existence of such a structured underground leadership. They insist most of the nine statements the unified command has published so far were dictated from abroad and distributed by a local DFLP network, now captured.

But the Israeli sources acknowledge the effectiveness of local committees in sustaining the uprising, providing relief services and channelling information to the news media.

In several places, the committees have approached Arabs known to collaborate with Israel's Shin Bet service and persuaded them to turn in their weapons and repent publicly.

One collaborator who refused was lynched in the

village of Khabatiyeh and his body hanged from an electricity pylon.

To relieve pressure on areas under army siege, protests are started in nearby villages in an effort to divert troops.

Way of life

The uprising has become a way of life. Town dwellers do their shopping in the three hours a day during which strike organisers allow stores to open. Palestinians who have given up jobs in Israel share local work. In some cases, local committees hand out strike pay.

Villages where nothing had happened for 20 years have become bastions of rebellion with residents erecting stone roadblocks, hoisting the Palestinian flag and declaring themselves "liberated zones."

'Ain Arik, near Ramallah, is an example. Last week, the 1,000 residents barricaded themselves in and declared the village "liberated."

Villagers attacked Israeli cars from the nearby Jewish settlement of Dolev and the local committee organised a permanent guard on entrances to the village, a resident said.

When troops arrived, they found residents well organised and armed with primitive weapons. Most of the villagers took to the streets and the army used helicopters and a large force of soldiers to put down the revolt.

The following night, armed Jewish settlers drove through the village in force. Two more settlers' cars were wrecked, causing jubilation among the villagers, the resident said.

No publicity, no advertisement

The village or neighbourhood committees are usually composed of local activists of Fateh, the PFLP and the DFLP. Although they often include older men, they are usually close to the "shabbab," the youth who form the hard core of street protests.

"In some places, there have been complaints against the local committees and they were replaced on orders of the unified command," said Daoud Kuttab, a senior Palestinian journalist.

"The committees are composed of people who want to work, with no publicity and no advertisement. The big factor in continuing the uprising is getting money to the strikers, food to the hungry, lawyers for the prisoners," he said.

"The rest is easy," said Kuttab. "The Shultz visit, the army beatings, the killing of demonstrators all provide political motives to keep the movement going."

HOME BRIEFS

SENATE TERM: A Royal Decree is expected to announce the conclusion of the fifth ordinary session of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate), which ends on March 10. Sources informed the Jordan Times that the Senate is expected to call for an extraordinary session to begin at the end of the month of Ramadan, to discuss the laws referred to it by the Lower House of Parliament.

ROYAL CABLE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to King Hassan II of Morocco on the anniversary of his accession to the throne. Prince Hassan wished the king continued health and happiness and the Moroccan people more progress and prosperity.

HMOUD: Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Wednesday returned to Amman following an official visit to Saudi Arabia where he had talks with his Saudi counterpart on means of exchanging expertise in agriculture-related issues. Both ministers agreed to boost bilateral ties within the framework of Arab agricultural integration. Hmoud said upon returning home that he agreed with the Saudis for increasing the volume of Saudi wheat to be exported to Jordan in 1988 by 120,000 tonnes over last year's quantity of 350,000 tonnes.

GARDENS: Greater Amman Municipality will this year set up 17 public gardens on plots of land ranging from three dunams to 89 dunams in and around the capital. These gardens will be set up at Ras Al Am, Sweileh, Wadi Seer, Abu Alanda, Muqablein, Sweileh, Hashimi Shamali, Rujum Al Kharabsheh, Abdali Sha, Badran Zuhour Tareq, Zahar, Al Manara and Nasr. A municipality official said that so far 788,000 trees have been planted in the existing public gardens in Amman.

COSTUMES: On the occasion of the Women's International Day on March 8, the Women's Union in Irbid will hold an exhibition displaying Palestinian women's traditional dresses and embroideries. The exhibition between March 6 and 12 will aim at highlighting women's role in Arab culture over the ages.

PORTS: Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Hussain Sayed Tuesday visited the Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) and met with its director general Eid Al Fayed. He was briefed on the corporation's activities in Jordan and in the Arab region. Later, the ambassador toured the corporation's facilities.

LAND TRANSPORT: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications met here Tuesday with Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein and the director general of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (JLTTC) Jamil Ibrahim. They discussed matters related to land transport between Iraq and Jordan. The minister received an invitation to visit Iraq and hold talks with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Hamzeh Al Zubeidi on matters of mutual concern to the two countries.

UNIVERSITIES: North Korea's Charge d'Affaires in Jordan Chang Chun Gun Tuesday called at Yarmouk University and met with its President Mohammad Hamdan. They discussed cooperation between North Korean cultural and scientific institutions and Yarmouk University. Gun said that his country would welcome university teachers taking part in cultural activities in North Korea. He also extended an invitation to Hamdan to visit North Korean universities.

DENTIST DAY: The Jordanian Dentists Association JDA will hold a "Dentist Day" Friday in cooperation with a local pharmaceutical company. Association President Walid Maraga said that the event will entail lectures on different aspects of dental work. He said that the faculties of dentistry at the University of Jordan and Jordan University of Science and Technology will both take part in the event.

HEALTH CENTRES: A total of 434,484 patients visited health centres and clinics run by the Ministry of Health in the Amman region during the past year, according to a health department spokesman. He said these were offered examination and treatment in the field of mother and child care, dentistry, and internal medicine and others. The health teams, conducted tests on 2,510 samples of water of which four per cent proved to be unfit for consumption, the spokesman said. In addition, health ministry departments performed autopsy on 640 dead bodies and dealt with 241 cases in which the victims were bitten by dogs, cats, rats, foxes and rabbits.

CHINA: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed Wednesday reviewed with the Chinese Ambassador in Amman Zhang Zhen fields of cooperation and existing bilateral relations. The ambassador renewed an invitation to Fayed from the Chinese National Peoples' Council's standing committee to visit China.

STEALING TRUCKS: The police department in Sweileh has apprehended a three member gang who had been "in the habit" of stealing pick-up trucks. The three were identified only as 20-year-old RA, 23-year-old AA, and 25-year-old SS, all from Jerash. Police department director in Sweileh Major Mohammad Al Masadeh was quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily as saying that a patrol car in Sweileh had motioned to the driver of the pick-up driver to stop, but the driver moved on driving as fast as he could, which prompted the police to chase him. He said that later the three occupants left the pick-up truck at the side of the road and fled, but were later apprehended. The three men admitted to having been in the habit of stealing pick-ups which they used to carry out robberies and thefts.

KARAMEH BATTLE: Yarmouk University has arranged a voluntary work camp on March 16 in the Karameh Battle site and North Shouba in the Jordan Valley as part of its celebrations to mark the 1968 Karameh Battle. The celebration programme also includes cycling rallies, cross-country races, and football match towards the end of this month.

SABBATICAL: Yarmouk University has granted a sabbatical year to Dr. Raslan Yassin, and Dr. Issam Mousa and Dr. Maan Al Rashid as of the beginning of the coming academic year 1988-1989. The three professors will be involved in research work during that year.

READING: A three week workshop designed to teach school children the habit of reading opened at the Friends of the Children's Club in Amman Tuesday. A Canadian specialist is among lecturers at the workshop which is being attended by 50 men and women teachers specialising in the school primary stage.

NUCLEAR: Dr. Nabih Muammer was elected Sunday as the first chairman of the Jordan Physicians for prevention of Nuclear War (JPPNW) administrative committee. The society's 90-member general assembly also elected Dr. Mahmoud Hneidi as vice chairperson, Dr. Hassan Badran as treasurer, Dr. Samir Samawi as secretary and doctors Sami Hamameh, Tareq Hijawi, Zuhair Abu Fares, Samih Amer and Anwar Haddadin as members. The society was established in March 1987.

HEALTH SERVICES: Outpatients receiving medical examination and treatment by health centres within the Amman Governorate last year were double those of 1986, according to a Health Ministry official. He said that a total of 434,484 people benefited from these centres mostly for dental services. Doctors and specialists at these centres, he said, offered treatment to mothers and children and quality control service in addition to normal medical services.

TAFILEH: The development council for Tafleeh Governorate in the southern region reviewed in a meeting Wednesday the 1987 projects executed by government departments and local councils as well as their planned projects for this year. Tafleeh Governor Aref Erseid, who chaired the meeting, stressed the need for implementing various projects to provide educational, health and agricultural services to remote areas in the governorate. He added that educational, health and social projects amounting to JD 6 million will be carried out in the governorate through this year.

PLANNING: The Ministry of Planning will be taking part in an international symposium on the planning of economic projects in developing countries which will be held in Turkey on March 28. Minister of Planning Dr. Taher Kana'an will head the ministry delegation to the three-day symposium. The Tourist Investments Department will also take part in the 8-day Berlin International Tourist Fair which will open Saturday.

CULTURAL DISCUSSIONS: Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri Wednesday discussed with Yugoslav's Ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic cultural cooperation between Yugoslavia and Jordan. Later, Hammouri met with the Omani Ambassador Khamis Mohammad Bitashi for a similar discussion.

Lawzi tells university students: Jordan wants to mobilise Arabs

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Wednesday said Jordan has always believed in a unified Arab stand in facing external challenges as well as mobilising Arab resources to regain Arab rights and occupied lands.

Addressing a number of leading students from the University of Jordan, Lawzi added that Amman had always sought to bridge differences among Arab countries and its efforts were culminated in the convening of the November Arab summit. The summit, Lawzi said, bolstered a unified Arab action towards all regional issues and the challenges

facing the Arab Nation. The Senate speaker told the students that the Kingdom, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, had stood up against all threats to the country's integrity and viability.

Lawzi stressed that the only possible mechanism for bringing about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict was through the holding of an international peace conference on the basis of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. He said such a conference should be attended by all parties involved in the conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as well as the five

permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Praising the courage and steadfastness of Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied territories who are challenging the Israeli occupation, Lawzi said the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza has renewed international concern over the Palestinian problem.

He said that Jordan has been giving moral and financial support for the Palestinians in the occupied territories and stressed that the Israeli oppressive and arbitrary measures had changed the Western portrayal of the Jewish state as a haven for democracy.

Khasawneh, Abourezk discuss ADC role

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh Wednesday met with James Abourezk, former U.S. Democratic senator from South Dakota and founder of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), and a number of ADC members.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed ways of strengthening the ADC role in its mission to inform the U.S. public

opinion on just Arab causes including the Palestinian issue.

Khasawneh praised Abourezk's role in confronting anti-Arab Zionist propaganda in the U.S. Abourezk told the minister that there had been a change in the American public opinion towards Arab issues due to the good media coverage of the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Rawabdeh ends visit to Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and an accompanying delegation Wednesday returned home after an official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Riyadh Mayor Sheikh Abdullah Al Nu'aim.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that the visit was aimed at bolstering ties between the municipalities of Amman and Riyadh as well as exchanging experiences between the two.

During the visit the Jordanian delegation also met with Saudi

Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef and other senior officials.

The delegation also reviewed the services and projects of Riyadh municipality and visited a number of projects in Saudi Arabia.

Rawabdeh earlier visited Qatar where he received an award by the Arab Cities Organisation which the Greater Amman Municipality won for implementing the children's village project in Tareq district of Amman.

Shobak experiments prove region's fertility

SHOBAK (Petra) — Experiments conducted by the Shobak agricultural station has proved the successful production of apples, grapes and other fruits in need in Jordanian and Arab markets.

Officials at the station said that experiments had shown the success of seven types of apples, four types of vines, and all types of apricots, cherries, plums, pears,

quince and pistachio.

The officials said that 100 dunams have been assigned for wheat and another 100 dunams for barley in the Shobak region, and that initial experiments had proved that the land was good for producing potatoes. According to these officials, the station last year produced 350,000 forest-tree saplings.

Children write for Mother's Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Children under 10 years of age have a chance to take part in a writing competition for the Housing Bank Centre (HBC) which said that all entries should be delivered before March 13, 1988. The centre is organising the competition under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Zain, the Queen Mother. Writings should be on one of the following subjects: A letter to the Queen Mother depict-

ing her contribution to Jordan's humanitarian and social services; a short story about the same topic; a poem related to the Queen's services for the Jordanian family.

The centre said that the competition is being held to mark Mother's Day on March 21. Entries are limited to no more than 100 words for the poem or letter, 250 for the short story.

Regulations issued for sacrifice meat distribution

AMMAN (Petra+J.T.) — The Cabinet Wednesday endorsed regulations for the control and distribution of sacrifice meat brought into Jordan from Saudi Arabia following the annual pilgrimage season in Mecca.

Thousands of pilgrims, who perform the annual religious rites in Mecca normally slaughter

animals as a sacrifice on the eve of Eid Al Adha which marks the end of the pilgrimage to the holy city.

Tonnes of meat are normally distributed to needy people in Islamic countries immediately after the feast, and some of it comes to Jordan for distribution by the local authorities.

Karak committee set to assist NAF

KARAK (Petra) — A public committee has been set up in Karak to help the National Aid Fund (NAF) carry out its operations in the Karak Governorate. NAF official Khalil Banna announced Wednesday.

Banna said that the committee groups a number of department directors in Karak, private institutions, clubs and women unions.

Labour and Social Development's programmes. These programmes are designed to end all forms of poverty and help solve social and economic problems in the governorate. It also aims at helping needy families increase their income, Banna added.

The NAF, he said, is involved in raising contributions for its humanitarian mission, and has been holding seminars and lectures to spread public awareness about the need to help the poor and create job opportunities for the needy.



Public Security Department Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Wednesday chairing the opening session of a seminar on crime (Petra photo)

Crime rate falls in 1987

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last year witnessed 18,129 crimes of which 2,411 were capital offences compared to 19,575 crimes in the previous year, Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali announced Wednesday.

He said that among last year's crimes were 68 murders committed on purpose; and the police were able to apprehend the perpetrators in 61 of these cases.

Majali was addressing the opening session of a seminar on "crime and the role of police in combating it in Jordan," which was organised in cooperation with the National Society for Social Defence Against Crime (SDAC).

This seminar, Majali said, is designed to involve various sectors of society in dealing with crime and the criminals and in proposing proper solutions.

According to Majali, who presented a working paper to the seminar, the total number of crimes in the Kingdom last year dropped by 7.4 per cent over the

1986 figures.

These crimes reflect contradictions, interactions and other developments within the economic, social and political life of the Jordanian community, but there are crimes, some of which are serious, committed by non-Jordanians working and living in the Kingdom, Majali noted.

He said that most of the crimes were committed for reasons related to morality but there were others committed in family feuds, revenge, over financial disputes or for settlement of old quarrels.

Majali said that the murders included 21 cases which can be classified as manslaughter, like those resulting from firing during weddings. There were 4,305 thefts and robberies in Jordan during 1987 against 4,776 such

cases in the previous year and these occurred largely due to lack of precautions at homes, stores and other buildings; the growing number of the unemployed and the improper family upbringing, Majali added.

Among the registered crimes in the country last year, a total of 2,876 were committed by juveniles, some of whom involved in drug trafficking.

He said that the PSD aimed at developing the concept of comprehensive security but that this required involvement of all sectors together with careful planning by experts for countering all forms of crimes and their underlying causes.

SDAC President Salem Kiswani paid tribute to the PSD for opening new channels of communication with the public in the drive against crime.

Among those present was the director general of the Civil Registration and Passports Department Issa Omari and representatives of various ministries and government departments and the universities.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Special issue No. 362

Drawing of March 2, 1988

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70290 70281 70191 79291 60291

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72193 72184 72094 71194 62194

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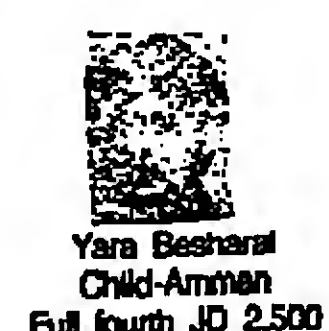
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Bank employee - Amman
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Sameer Boleh
Driver-Sarab
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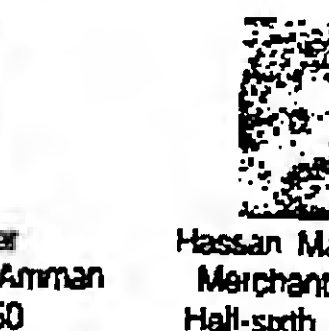
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Now you see it...

THE request by some 300 American Jews to the Israeli government to ban television coverage of the Palestinian uprising is a simplistic sign of the inability of the world Zionist movement to face the reality of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ironically, the call is from the citizens of a country which takes pride in its record of press freedom and frankness, not to mention the fact that one of the basic arguments American Jewry puts forward in defence of Israel is that it is the only democracy in the region, and one which discusses issues in public.

Perhaps, the signatories to the request, which was forwarded through the Israeli diplomatic channels in the U.S., seek to hide the truth of Israel's brutality and oppression from reaching non-Zionist Americans who are the unwitting financiers of Israel. No doubt, even those American Jews who do not subscribe to Zionist designs in the Middle East may be hesitant to extend more financial or moral support to Israel once they see how the occupation uses brutal suppression methods against Palestinian women and children, as if the uprising has offered an opportunity to experiment with the level of human tolerance of pain. Israeli leaders have picked up the cue, and it is no surprise that Shamir and his followers are thinking about about banning journalists from the occupied territories. "Hmmm, sounds a bit like South Africa to us."

The Israelis and the world Zionist movement might try to bar media coverage of the truth in the occupied territories, in a bid to protect Israel's image, but will that advance Israel's frenzied search for an end to the Palestinian uprising? Will it help Israel's much-publicised efforts to ensure its "security"? Above all, can those advocating a blackout of the uprising be called Israel's friends, since media coverage of the Palestinian reality is bound to further advance the awareness of the need to address the basic conflict, and to ensure security and stability for all parties in the region, Israel included? Desperate people suggest desperate ideas.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King reiterates Arab stand

JORDAN has been seeking justice and the return of Arab rights and lands to their lawful owners, and for this reason this country has been firm in its stand and its position based on sound principles. The Amman Arab summit last November came to back Jordan's position through a unified Arab stand which called for an international conference to be held so that a lasting peace could be achieved and end Israel's occupation of Arab land. In true commitment to this policy King Hussein Tuesday reiterated to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz the Arab stand which has been backed by all countries. The King heard Shultz's new ideas, which according to observers, did not contain anything new to add to the American views. Jordan, as the King said, has always rejected all partial solutions and will continue to do that because partial treaties can never achieve a comprehensive peace, but it would rather serve as a time bomb that can go off any moment. Such partial treaties, the King noted, cannot be guaranteed and, therefore the Middle East question should be dealt with at an international conference in which all U.N. Security Council members in addition to the concerned parties can take part. The way to peace is open to all, and the United States should be convinced of the idea of an international conference which can achieve it.

Al Dustour: Ball still in U.S. court

THE prolonged meeting in London between King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz served as the last stage in the American secretary's current tour in the Middle East region. The meeting was yet another chance for the King to reiterate the Arab views and Jordan's firm stand and continued endeavours for arriving at a just peace through an international conference to be held under U.N. auspices. The King, speaking on behalf of the whole Arab Nation, emphatically announced his rejection of any partial settlements or unilateral negotiations with Israel. Jordan and the Arab countries at large, the King said, believe that only a comprehensive solution can bring peace to this region. The King was keen to hear the American ideas, but also keen on talking frankly to the American secretary of state about them, urging the U.S. to develop its new ideas so that they can fall in line with the requirements of a comprehensive and lasting peace. Therefore, the ball is still in the American court, and it should be emphasised that any moves towards genuine peace should be done in coordination with the Soviet Union and the other U.N. Security Council member nations. The United States which has been expressing its desire to bring peace to our region ought to adapt its moves to the new circumstances specially in view of the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Sawt Al Shaab: No to partial solutions

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met his Majesty King Hussein in London on Tuesday to discuss the Middle East question. The King reaffirmed to the American secretary the basic and firm principles in the Arab Nation's views with regard to a settlement in the Middle East region based on the Arab summit resolutions, passed last November. Jordan and the Arabs at large are keen on a lasting settlement that can see an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and not interested in partial solutions that can lead nowhere. These views were conveyed to Shultz at the London meeting with the King who was careful to project the Arab Nation's views at all international forums. We sincerely hope that Shultz will now listen to the sound of reason, and benefit from views and briefings he obtained during his tour of the Middle East region. We also hope that the U.S. policies will now be oriented towards establishing a real peace in the Middle East.

How the U.S. prepares policies for Mideast

By Mark Bruzonsky

WASHINGTON — Presidential election years bring out the political vultures and opportunists in this capital. For those concerned with U.S. policies in the Middle East the game is much the same as for everyone else — a ferocious competition for influence and power masked by a certain decorum when in the public eye. While the candidates are busy raising money and support — and when it comes to Middle East matters being very careful not to step on the toes of Israel's notoriously unforgiving supporters — those seeking to influence, or find a place in, the next administration are busily manoeuvring for position. This is the context in which two major study group reports making recommendations about future American Middle East policy can be anticipated during 1983.

The first is a joint report from the Middle East Institute and The Atlantic Council; the second, and likely to be the more important, will come from the liberal Brookings Institution. There's a third report as well on the way, this one from a group calling itself the Washington Institute on Near East Affairs — a front group for the Zionist lobby.

It is important to remember that the Washington game is played only by those observant of its basic rules. Cardinal among them is that the players do not reveal to others, most especially the press, the level of mediocrity, chicanery, and political manipulation that is usually involved in these undertakings. Another rule is that everyone involved pretends to self-importance and special insights into the problems under discussion. Pretending that something new, different, and inde-

pendent is being conceived. Those who agree to play by the rules, those sufficiently protective of the hallowed "process" by which panelists are selected, discussions held, reports drafted, are all well aware that their consent entitles them to meal tickets, airplane rides, embassy invitations, and occasional access to influence in this town; as well as invitations to future panels, of course.

"Those who agree to play by the rules... are well aware that their consent entitles them to meal tickets, plane rides, embassy invitations..."

There's one other very special rule, of course. The key issues surrounding U.S. Middle East policy — the struggle of the Jewish lobby, the impact of Jewish campaign contributions, the interaction between domestic politics and American policies; the debilitating effects of the alliance with Israel — these are all taboo subjects. Those who think otherwise are either not part of or soon pushed out of the process; those who speak up on these matters are considered outside the circle; those unwilling to play by this key structure are systematically excluded.

For outsiders, the confusing haze cast by these informal, unwritten rules usually causes the whole process, and then the reports themselves, to be given greater importance than they actually merit. In reality, the

eventual content of the various reports is pretty much determined in the beginning rather than at the end, during the selection of panel members. Yet, in fairness to those who indulge in these matters as a regular activity, the other side of the coin is that Washington is a place where everyone seems to be so preoccupied that whoever focuses on specific policy questions can have an influence far out of proportion to merit — one of the basic secrets behind the success of the Jewish lobby.

Here, in advance, some usually unwritten truths about these groups now meeting in private, whose reports we will all be hearing much about in future months.

The Middle East Institute/Atlantic Council report originated in 1985. Usually concerned with U.S.-European and NATO matters, the Council is pretty much in the report-generating business for a living. Issuing reports on one subject or another every few months from its location a block from the White House is something of a cottage industry for this organisation. It keeps itself alive by soliciting grants of money for various projects, including each of its reports — money which then pays its staff, expenses, et al. Additionally, the whole process is an entrance ticket into policy discussion circles for people associated with the Atlantic Council who are either retired from government offices, or hangers-on eager to see their names in print. Rarely do outsiders with fresh or "different" views and perspective get involved.

In the case of this particular report about the Middle East, the Atlantic Council leaders were well aware they knew next to nothing about the Middle East. So they ventured up the street a few blocks to what some have come to see as the rather lethargic retirement home of former American foreign service officers once posted to the region, a place more popularly known as the Middle East Institute.

It was a sound marriage of convenience and opportunity. The Middle East Institute has no money, few ideas, and little energy. Its former president — a retired American ambassador who served throughout the Middle East — readily agreed to the project. He saw the opportunity for the Institute to share in the credit without having to do much by way of effort. Hence the birth of a panel of some two dozen "experts", including this writer I need confess, who for nearly two years now have pontificated among themselves, waffling from one approach to another, united only by their inability to agree on what their august report should eventually conclude.

As is usual for these affairs, the balance of personalities chosen for the panel was heavily weighted toward Israel and established American attitudes. Indeed, the two rapporteurs, chosen in advance and without discussion by the panel, are both former National Security Council staff officials with vested self-interest in justifying past mistakes, camouflaging American imperialist attitudes and, and protecting the American-Israeli alliance. Palestinians? One academic living in Kuwait, with no political experience in Washington's ways — a sop to put it plainly. At one of the early

meetings, when the name Edward Said was proposed for the panel, he was vetoed through hurried whispers between chairman and rapporteurs because of his membership in the Palestine National Council. The fact that there were many representatives of Jewish organisations already on the panel did not seem to faze the organisers. Arab-Americans? None. Jewish Americans? A long list of course.

"When Edward Said was proposed... he was vetoed through hurried whispers because of his membership of the PNC."

The forthcoming Brookings Report comes more than a decade after the institution's 1975 report which had a major impact on official Washington's thinking about the Middle East. Currently still meeting every few weeks, the report is scheduled for early next year. If it is as unbalanced as the panel itself — largely selected by William Quandt, another former National Security Council operative — one can imagine its equivocations and biases.

Take for instance the basic issue of political balance when it comes to the panel members associated with either pro-Israeli versus pro-Arab positions. Of the 19 members of the panel six are Jewish, three of whom are associated in one way or another with the Jewish lobby, and one is actually banned from some Arab countries for alleged intelligence connections. Rabbi Henry Sieg-

man is in fact the executive director of the American Jewish Congress, one of the lead organisations currently promoting the struggle to close the offices of the PLO in Washington and New York. Rita Houser is one of the "progressive" American Jewish propagandists affiliated with the American Jewish Committee and Israel's Labour Party. Ken Wolack is a former official of the Jewish lobby on Capitol Hill.

"Balancing" them are two Palestinian American intellectuals, both good scholars, but outsiders when it comes to Washington — Rashid Khalidi and Fuad Mughrabi. When asked about this serious imbalance Bill Quandt insisted that what's important is not the "ethnic heritage" of the panel members but that everyone is coming together.

Or take for instance the men in charge of the panel. One co-chairman is the former American ambassador to Israel, Sam Lewis, recipient of numerous awards from the Jewish community reflecting his pronounced Israeli orientation. The other co-chairman, former ambassador to Egypt Herman Eilts, is the man primarily responsible for convincing Anwar Sadat to go along with the Camp David agreement.

Make no mistake about it though; these upcoming Middle East reports are important. They help set the tone and parameters for polite political discussion here, and more importantly they will help determine the orientation of those competing for influence and power during and immediately after the presidential election, now only 11 months away — Middle East International, London.

Afghan peace talks enter decisive stage

By Hanns Neuerbourg
The Associated Press

GENEVA — U.N.-sponsored peace talks on the Afghanistan war entered a decisive stage Wednesday amid broad hopes of eventual settlement and improved East-West relations before the anticipated U.S.-Soviet summit.

But complex issues still await resolution before a package of agreements, the result of nearly six years of negotiations, could be finally tied up.

U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez has said the new round is to concentrate on resolving differences among proposals for the phasing of a withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The troops are fighting a protracted war with rebels who are trying to overthrow the Soviet-backed Afghan government. The war has claimed more than 1 million lives since the Soviet Union intervened in December 1979.

The negotiations have come under mounting pressure since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced Feb. 8 that Moscow would withdraw its "troops" starting May 15, provided a settlement is reached in Geneva by March 15.

Gorbachev said the withdrawal could be completed in ten months, compared with a four-year timetable cited at the outset of the Geneva talks involving Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pakistan originally demanded that the troops depart within three months but has gradually widened that span to eight months.

Pakistan, however, wants the settlement linked to the formation of a transitional government that would replace the Communist-dominated government of President Najib.

Moscow accuses Pakistan
Islamabad argues that only such an interim solution can prevent new bloodshed, while assuring the safe return of more than 5 million Afghan refugees, one third of Afghanistan's pre-war population.

Moscow has accused Pakistan of creating last-minute obstacles to an accord and said the makeup of the government should be left to the Afghans. The alliance of Pakistan-based Afghan resistance groups, claiming to represent some 200,000 guerrillas, responded last week by revealing its own proposal for a government.

It has ruled out any power-sharing with Najib but offered a minor role to "Muslims presently living in Kabul," a formula that could refer to moderates in the present government.

Yunis Khalis, chairman of the seven-group alliance, vowed that the Mujahedeen guerrillas will

not lay down their arms before the "Islamic government" is established.

Predictably, that concept has been rejected by Najib and his foreign minister, Abdul Wakil, who heads the Afghan delegation in Geneva. Wakil says he represents the "only legal government in Afghanistan which has been recognised by 80 countries."

Pakistan so far has not given its formal support to the Mujahedeen proposal and has hinted it prefers a more broad-based approach.

The new Pakistani chief representative is Zain Noorani, state minister for foreign affairs, who pledged upon departure from Islamabad that his country will "contribute positively" to the talks. Noorani succeeds Foreign Minister Sahabzada Khan, who led the team at Geneva since 1982 but recently resigned.

Ambivalent U.S.

The United States, which along with the Soviet Union is to guarantee implementation of the peace package, has been ambivalent in its reaction to the calls for an interim government.

A senior U.S. official returning with Secretary of State George Shultz from Moscow hinted last week that Washington does not back such demands. The official refused to be identified.

But the U.S. Senate, in a non-binding resolution Monday, urged formation of an interim government in Kabul acceptable to the Afghan resistance.

And U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost, visiting Pakistan last week, said the guerrilla plan was a "very welcome step towards the resolution of the Afghan problem."

There has also been a lack of clear signals on when Washington would be prepared to cut off its aid to the Mujahedeen, reported to have totalled about \$700 million last year.

Monday's Senate resolution, which passed 77-0, called on the White House not to cut off, suspend or reduce military aid to the Afghan resistance "until it is absolutely clear that the Soviets have terminated their military occupation."

Gorbachev suggested in his statement that this issue had been resolved. Soviet officials said the United States was expected to end its support at the start of the troop withdrawal.

The phasing of the Soviet withdrawal is another potential snag. Gorbachev hinted Moscow would yield to American demands to evacuate a major portion at an early stage. But a diplomatic source close to the negotiations said there were still "very different approaches" to this concept.

Uprising intensifies, changes people

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Three months of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip appear to have led to a fundamental change in the attitude of Palestinian Arabs, particularly among the young.

In interviews, Arabs and Jews speak of a sense of a new Palestinian aggressiveness and self-confidence spawned by the uprising, and a feeling among Palestinians that they are taking greater control of their own future.

After two decades of Israeli rule viewed by most Arabs as harsh, unjust and capricious, residents in the territories have discovered they can to some extent move events. Their outrage, their stones and bottles, have drawn an international response where previously there had been only apathy.

"It is a result of 20 years of humiliating measures," said Sumeyye Nassar, a biology professor at Birzeit University in the West Bank. "Now, they all feel they have nothing to lose."

The effect is most evident among those born after the 1967 war when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza. Those young people have never known anything but Israeli occupation. At the barricades of stone, behind burning tires, the spearhead is the teen-ager.

Youths throw stones and taunt

the soldiers, daring them to retaliate. Other boys so young they can't possibly understand the political implications of what they are doing boldly confront tear gas and guns, stone cars, wave V-signs and Palestinian flags.

Ready for the sacrifice

In the village of Birzeit west of Ramallah, a teen-ager named Ahmed loitered near the post office with a group of friends, waiting for something to happen.

"I hope they come. I would like to fight them. I'd be happy to sacrifice my life," — Teenager.

"I hope they come," he said of the Israeli army. "I would like to fight them. I'd be happy to sacrifice my life."

But the movement is not exclusively young. Talks with scores of Palestinians in the territories reveal an almost universal willingness to push the confrontation to the limit.

"We have to depend on ourselves to liberate our own land," said Khaled, an elderly man hobbling on his cane at the rear of a demonstration in the village of Kfar Naam. "We have reached this conclusion, and I am ready to give my life."

The killings, the beatings, the tear gas attacks, the broken

bones inflicted by the Israelis in an effort to stifle the uprising have had the opposite effect. They have instilled a sense of defiance among Palestinians, and in some, a desire for revenge.

Also evident is a new feeling of self-esteem among a people long treated as second-class citizens. By going to the barricades, by participating in the general strike, by demonstrating, they are asserting a newfound aggressive-

"We have to depend on ourselves to liberate our land, and I am ready to give my life," — Old man.

ness. And they are seeing results. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's peace mission to the Middle East was sparked by the violence. With elections both in the United States and Israel scheduled for this year, it is unlikely any peacemaking efforts would have been undertaken without the direct pressure of the mounting death toll and Israeli crackdown.

Point of no return

"They have recognised something about themselves," said Ron Verber, education director of the Golda Meir Association, a group that promotes Arab-Jewish co-existence.

"They look at themselves differently now," Verber said. "They see independence from Israel as something solid. They feel they can do something about it."

"A year ago, this feeling didn't exist. From that point of view, it is the point of no return. We will not be able to put things back the way they were before. They have made a statement," Verber said.

For years, inhabitants of the territories have looked for leadership to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, first in Lebanon, and now headquartered in Tunisia.

Palestinians here saw the situation as out of their hands, beyond their control. While encouraging a local leadership to keep in touch with the situation on the ground, the PLO sought to control the struggle from the outside, limiting the locals to a secondary role.

The PLO remains a potent force in the occupied lands. But what the uprising has taught local Palestinians is that they themselves can strike directly at the Israelis. They are no longer awed by the Israeli military might that for so long cowed them into submission on the strength of its image alone.

"The uprising has given us a sense of pride and a lack of fear," said Hammad, another West Bank villager. "We think we can control our future."

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AMMAN, JORDAN

Arab states fight AIDS through religion

By Philip Shenkin
Reuters

KUWAIT — Arab script fills the TV screen. A stern voice intones a saying of the Prophet Muhammad: "When obscenity flourished among them, even in public, a plague appeared that their forefathers never knew."

The modern-day scourge is AIDS, and conservative Gulf Arab states are harking back to Islam to fight it.

As the killer disease gains a foothold in the Middle East, governments are beginning to warn their people with a message as much religious as scientific: Obey the teachings of Islam, and you won't get AIDS.

"Religion cannot be more supportive in preventing the disease," said Hani Wahdan of the Alexandria, Egypt office of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Islamic countries of the Middle East and North Africa have reported about 110 cases to WHO, a tiny proportion of the 78,000 cited worldwide.

But the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes it is spreading often undetected throughout the region and could trigger a rash of new cases in the coming years, WHO warns.

Since AIDS is spread largely by what Islam and other religions consider illicit sex, the threat has forced governments to broach a subject long considered taboo.

The only way to do so without offending popular religious sentiment and politically powerful religious leaders and movements is by invoking Islam.

At a recent Middle East AIDS conference in Kuwait, an official of the northern Gulf emirate's

health ministry denounced Western "safe sex" campaigns as morally decadent.

There is only one way to avoid AIDS and that is to be chaste and virtuous as Allah ordained and to avoid the abominations of the obscene," Ibrahim Al Sayyad told a public debate.

A recent problem

In the West, AIDS is spread largely through homosexual contact and intravenous drug injections with shared needles. For reasons that are still not clearly understood, heterosexual contact is mostly responsible in Africa, where some of the highest concentrations of the disease are found.

Until recently, AIDS was not even regarded as a problem in the Middle East. But after cases cropped up nearly everywhere, largely blamed on imports of HIV infected blood, the wall of silence began to crumble.

"We are past the denial stage," says Wahdan. "Not a single country denies it is a problem. But some still do not want to report their cases."

At the Kuwait conference, sponsored by WHO and the Kuwaiti government, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) refused to disclose how many cases they had.

Two cases in Saudi Arabia have been reported by an American medical journal, while a health official in the UAE cited 22 AIDS deaths there last year in a press statement subsequently denied by the country's health minister.

Even when states report the number of cases, they may not be

telling the truth about the causes, Wahdan said. Only two states in the Middle East — Tunisia and Kuwait — have admitted that homosexual sex may have been a factor.

Tunisia has the Arab World's highest number of reported cases at 19, while Kuwait has declared 15 HIV carriers but no cases. Turkey (21), Sudan (12) and Qatar (nine) also have relatively high totals of AIDS cases.

Homosexuality?

Despite the nearby presence of an estimated three to four million heterosexual HIV carriers in Africa, "AIDS is still tied up in people's minds with homosexuality and this has been a real problem in talking openly about the disease," says Wahdan.

Homosexual sex is not uncommon among young Muslim men, possibly because Islam encourages and sometimes requires separation of the sexes.

But the openly gay identity that spawned backroom sex bars and bath houses in the West in the 1970s is generally rare and legally and socially inadmissible.

Homosexuality is punishable by death in Iran and Iraq. In Kuwait the maximum sentence is five years, compared to ten for adultery.

A potentially more serious threat could be transmission of AIDS through prostitutes, common in Africa and apparently emerging in other parts of Asia, health experts say.

Last summer, as thousands of wealthy young Gulf Arabs left on annual holidays abroad, Kuwaiti and UAE authorities handed out AIDS pamphlets at airports to

warn against immoral contacts.

Officials say most of the sexually transmitted AIDS cases in the region were contracted abroad.

Tunisia has advised sexually active youth to use condoms, which block HIV transmission through semen. But most Islamic states, particularly in the Gulf, shun this approach as too provocative.

"Until a few years ago condoms could not be advertised even in the U.S. or Britain," said Kazem Behbehani, director of a WHO regional AIDS centre in Kuwait. "We have to educate people according to their social set-up and structure. There are certain things that cannot be said."

Saudi Arabia plans to begin talking more about AIDS in the media. Kuwait will make a lecture on AIDS mandatory in school. In both, the stress will be on prevention through moral conduct, officials said.

WHO says countries of the region need to address more honestly the sexual practices that spread AIDS. "Societies that have secrets, that refuse to deal with the real behaviour of their people, leave themselves open to HIV infection," said Jonathan Mana, head of WHO's AIDS programme.

Even if imported blood has caused most of the region's AIDS cases so far, that may not be true in a few years, he said. The threat from infected blood has been drastically cut through screening of blood banks in most Middle-East countries.

Intravenous drug use has been blamed for at least one case of HIV infection in Bahrain but is not believed to be a major problem, officials said.

Shultz to return to Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

through an international conference.

He was making his first comments on a statement made by Shultz after their talks in Cairo Sunday. Shultz said he felt he and Mubarak had a package that was promising.

"I did not see this package, but it should be given to the parties within a couple of days and I cannot foretell what is in it," Mubarak said.

"The principle is to go to an international conference for a comprehensive settlement... I hope the Israelis and (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir understand this and should not fear the conference," he said.

Shultz is expected to visit Cairo Friday for his second round of talks with Mubarak. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

The agency, quoting diplomatic sources, said Shultz might also meet in Cairo a Palestinian delegation selected from a list of names approved by the PLO.

A Shamir aide said Wednesday Shamir was willing to hold direct talks with Jordan under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union.

The aide said Shamir had authorised Shultz to propose the idea.

Shamir had proposed such a meeting when he met Shultz last October, but the King rejected it.

The aide said Shamir's idea was for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Reagan to invite King Hussein and Shamir to a "summit within a summit" in which the superpower leaders would officially launch direct negotiations between the two parties.

Peres favours partial pullout

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Shamir's political rival, told American Jewish fundraisers Tuesday that Israel would be willing to exchange for peace those parts of the occupied territories not crucial to its "security."

Peres said although parts of the occupied territories were not negotiable, including Arab Jerusalem, "is that a reason to remain in Gaza?"

"People are saying, if you give up Nablus, you will have to give up Jerusalem. That is not so," Peres said. "We shall defend what is really needed by us. And we shall give up what is in excess and disturbs the balance."

Peres also questioned whether Jewish settlements in the occupied territories contributed to Israeli "security."

"What I ask is whether they are still such a great contribution to the security of Israel. That's a highly controversial issue," Peres said.

An envoy of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday Israel had no choice but to leave the occupied territories if it wants the Palestinian uprising to stop.

Ribbi Awad told Reuters that after such a withdrawal, an independent Palestinian state would be set up.

"Unless those two conditions are met, the uprising will go on and no one, even the United States, can halt it... there will be no going back now," he said.

"We have become accustomed to such U.S. shuttles that take place only when Israel is in a plight," Awad said referring to the Shultz mission.

"The U.S. should understand that its farces will not fool anyone again except those fools who fail to realise its true policy."

Awad was on his way back to Tunis after delivering a message from Arafat to Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

Right to return

In The Hague, a senior PLO official said Wednesday a Middle East peace conference must lead to the return of Palestinians to Israel as well as an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Abdul Latif Abu Hije, number two in the PLO's Political Department, made the comment at a news conference in The Hague during a European tour of West Germany, The Netherlands and France.

"At an international conference two things will be discussed. Not only the occupied territories but also the rights of all our people," he said.

"The right of those from Nazareth to go back to Nazareth, those from Haifa to go back to Haifa, those from Jaffa to go back to Jaffa, Abu Hije said.

He said the West Bank and Gaza could not hold the more than three million Palestinian refugees living outside the territories.

"There are several alternatives. One is that they go back to their homeland in Israel. If this is not possible, let us have another alternative — achieve the partition plan," he said. He was referring to the 1947 U.N. plan to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab sectors.

Abu Hije said he discussed with Dutch leaders a PLO proposal for the United Nations to immediately take over the administration of the territories from Israel until an international peace conference is convened.

Randa Habib's Corner

Looking for a X'mas tree

ON SNOW day last week, I wished it was Christmas again. I would have gathered all the branches, lying on the sidewalks, and made out of them, tens of Christmas trees.

Happy as we were to see the snow covering Amman with a beautiful white coat, one could not but feel sad to see so many trees mutilated by the storm.

Strange enough, it was not only the young, thin trees which were hit, but also the big ones. Big branches bent under the weight of the snow and then fell off trees.

In most of Amman's districts, especially near the Baptist school or in Jabal Al Hussein, you see piles of dead branches, waiting to be removed. Some branches are still hanging on the trees, in a very dangerous manner. With the first strong wind, those branches will fall and might hurt passers-by.

In fact I have seen the municipality trucks, the next day of snow fall, picking up some dead branches, but for some mysterious reason, they did not resume their task in the following days. The most urgent task now is to have these "semi-attached" branches cut before any damage is done. As much as we appreciate the efforts made by the Greater Amman Municipality to beautify the city, we think that such a magnitude of damage could have been averted if trees had been trimmed properly in preparation for such conditions.

Iraqi missiles hammer Tehran

(Continued from page 1)

Iran's main theological centre and the home of Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, Khomeini's designated successor.

Although Qom is Khomeini's seat, the 87-year-old leader has lived in the northern Tehran suburb of Jamaran for several years.

This week's attacks were the first time Iraq has used surface-to-surface missiles on Tehran, a city of six million, since the Gulf war began in 1980. It marks the worst escalation in the "war of the cities" that has killed thousands of civilians.

Iran reports shelling

The Iranian agency said Iranian artillery gunners, in retaliation for the attacks on Tehran, shelled the Iraqi cities of Basra, Ammara, Badra, Zorbatiya, Ali Sharqi and Ali Gharbi.

Also Wednesday, Iraq said its air force bombed the western Iranian town of Dezful and the city of Karaj, near Tehran, setting their targets ablaze. Iran did not report the raids.

Iraq said it began the missile barrage of Tehran to retaliate for two pre-dawn Iranian rockets on Baghdad Monday. Iran said the missiles were in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on the Tehran oil refinery last week.

Another diplomat said the Iranians had resumed their military build-up on the southern sector of the 1,180-kilometre Gulf war-

front and would probably advance a long-awaited major offensive on Basra.

A foreign resident in Tehran, reached by telephone, told Reuters many Iranians and foreigners had left the capital for nearby resorts Wednesday — a national religious holiday — to escape the missile attacks.

He said several Japanese trading companies and banks had stopped work in Tehran after a missile damaged their offices Tuesday.

The Japanese embassy held a meeting Tuesday to assess the situation and recommended that Japanese women and children be evacuated, he added.

He said foreign airlines had stopped flying to Tehran and tickets for Iran Air flights abroad were extremely difficult to obtain.

Kuwait urges end to flare-up

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Wednesday appealed to the U.N. Security Council to take action to stop the flareup in the "war of the cities" between Iran and Iraq.

The emir, in his capacity as current chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), made the appeal in a letter delivered to the president of the Security Council by Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Abul Hassan, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported.

They put words in his mouth, and sometimes he utters 'good stuff'

By Susanne M. Schafer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan was known during his acting days as a quick study. Nowadays, his White House staff leaves nothing to chance, scripting his performance at each meeting from the opening "Welcome to the White House" to the closing "God bless you."

A peek at background memos prepared for the president reveals that he is provided with an extremely detailed minute-by-minute schedule of the day's meetings and activities, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reagan is given "suggested talking points," papers that lay out specific greetings he should offer, questions he should ask and closing remarks to be made. Also included are breaks in the copy where the other participants may be called upon to speak.

Each event is covered on separate page, with the time, place, names of the participants and possible type of press coverage, as well as an explanation of why the session is being held.

A 20-page package of memos, dated Feb. 25, was first obtained and reported on by the ABC broadcasting network, whose correspondent made them available to the Associated Press.

The package included remarks prepared for outside visitors to the White House, ranging from singer Wayne Newton to an interview with Washington Post reporter Lou Cannon.

Absent from the package were any comments prepared for the president's daily top-level staff meeting or national security briefing.

The fact that such usually closely guarded scheduling papers have gotten into reporters' hands is clearly an embarrassment for White House officials.

Cheep shot

But some White House staffers dismiss the disclosures, contending the paperwork is similar to that provided other high administration officials or corporate officers.

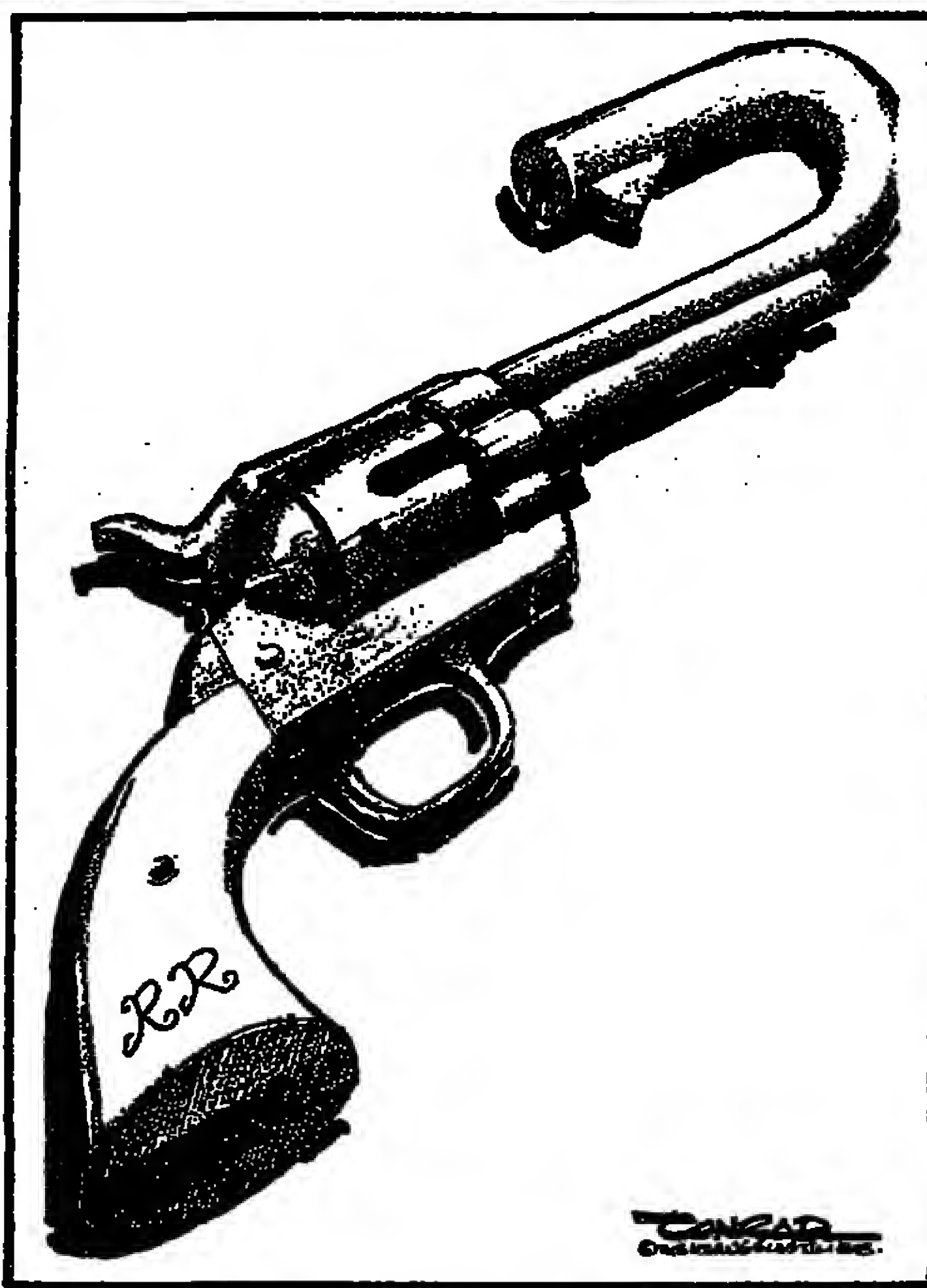
"I think the insinuation that President Reagan needs to be told to say 'goodbye' or 'God bless you' is a cheap shot," said Reagan's domestic policy adviser, Gary Bauer.

"Anyone who's around the president frequently knows that the best stuff he says at meetings are the things he comes up with on his own. It's unfair and silly to insinuate that he can't function without those papers," said Bauer.

Reagan was provided with the following script for a 30-minute meeting with leaders of Congress who had recently met with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies about the arms control treaty signed in December.

"Bob (Senator Robert Byrd), I appreciate you and your colleagues coming down today."

"I know there has been a good deal of discussion in your hear-



ings about the treaty's implications for NATO.

"On that point, I'm pleased you were able to make this trip together, and Bob, I want to thank you especially for understanding this and for handling our discussions over there so effectively. And I'm really glad that you made it to Turkey. I want to hear about that part of your trip in particular."

(Senator Byrd and other senators report on their trip.)

"I want to thank all of you for your input and advice."

"The next several weeks will be critical in terms of your ratification activities on the INF treaty, and I will continue to work closely with you."

White House Communications Director Thomas Griscom

said Reagan ignored the scripted dialogue during the meeting. He said such texts are given to Reagan only to "refresh his memory," if necessary.

"He knew what points he wanted to make, so he didn't use the talking points at all," Griscom said.

"He hasn't got the time to sit there making notes about what each little meeting's supposed to be about — he has more important things to do," Griscom added.

Elaine Crispin, press secretary to first lady Nancy Reagan said: "Both she (Mrs. Reagan) and the president know how to say, 'hello, how do you do.'"

Besides, she added, "show me a (television) correspondent who doesn't use a script."

Egypt's 'wild west' faces pressures

By John Rogers
Reuters

RAS BORKA, Egypt — South Sinai, once torn by war, faces a new conflict: How to exploit its attractions while preserving the desert, the mountains and the coral which make it special.

The Egyptian government plans to develop south Sinai but lovers of the area, which still offers travellers some of the remoteness and uncertainty of the old American wild west, want it to be developed with great care.

"In five years, it will be completely a Riviera," said Sherif El Ghamrawy, who runs a beach camp below Ras Borka headland north of Nuweiba on the Gulf of Aqaba.

"I'm worried that the coast will be developed without good plan-

ning and just thinking about getting money out of it very fast without thinking about the future," he told Reuters. "I believe Sinai is a kind of holy place."

Biblical links and scenery around Thorny acacia trees dot scrubland little changed since Moses and the Israelites received the 10 Commandments. At the traditional site of the "burning bush" stands the Greek Orthodox monastery of St. Catherine's, a major tourist attraction.

From Nuweiba, ships sail to Aqaba. About 60 kilometres up the coast is Taba, a beach strip disputed by Egypt and Israel, and the Israeli port of Eilat.

Sinai's Gulf of Aqaba coast is a paradise for divers and snorkellers, boasting what experts regard as some of the world's finest coral.

The local cowboys are bedouin Arabs mounted on camels.

3 days, \$50

Salama Houssein Sabah takes tourists to inland valleys and mountains where they can spend days without seeing other travellers or hearing vehicles, except perhaps a far-off plane.

For some \$50 for three days, he and his colleagues guide the group and cook while their camels carry the baggage. The tourist walks — or rides a camel.

"We like camels the way you like dogs," Salama told a British visitor. "But you can't make a profit out of dogs and you can from a camel."

Some tourists enter Sinai through Israel, which seized the peninsula in 1967 and pulled out in 1982 under its peace treaty

with Egypt. Others drive from Cairo, 550 kilometres away, or fly to Sharm El Sheikh, south Sinai's main town.

Salama said business was brisker under the Israelis. "We didn't have time to rest the camels," he said.

South Sinai remained a favourite Israeli holiday spot after 1982, but the trade was badly hit after seven Israelis were killed at Ras Borka in 1985.

About 11,000 Israeli tourists came to Sinai through Taba last year, up from 5,000 in 1986. But Ghamrawy, whose camp is near the site of the shooting, said the traffic was one-third its previous level.

Reminders of war and the Israeli occupation are frequent. Sandbagged trenches slice across strategic hills

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Steaua scores 2-0 first leg win over Glasgow Rangers

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian army team Steaua Bucharest, spurred by a second minute goal from Victor Piturca, seized a 2-0 victory over Scotland's Glasgow Rangers in their European Cup quarter-final first-leg clash Wednesday.

Steaua, who won the Champions' Cup in 1986, underlined their dominance with a second goal after 66 minutes by Stefan Iovan following a free kick.

The result left the Scottish champions, who are seeking their first European trophy since winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972, facing a stern task in the return leg in Glasgow March 16.

Steaua, the Romanian First Division leaders, might have built an even greater advantage but for an impressive display by Rangers' goalkeeper, Chris Woods. He made three superb saves during a sustained first-half assault by the army side.

The Romanians went ahead from their first serious attack which Rangers failed to clear, and Piturca pounced on a loose ball to score from close range.

Steaua's second strike came from a short free kick 25 metres out of Rangers' goal. Gheorghe Hagi pushed the ball to right-back Iovan, who drove it home with the aid of a deflection off a Scottish defender.

Rangers had received a pre-match boost when top scorer Ally McCoist was declared fit to play, only a week after a cartilage operation.

However, the Scots found attacking opportunities were rare.

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as Steaua embarked on a relentless first-half onslaught.

In one five-minute burst, Woods turned a fiercely-driven free kick by Hagi over the bar and then touched over a well-struck shot from Nicolae Ungureanu. Soon afterwards he made another good save from Hagi.

Rangers midfielder Scott Nisbet and Ungureanu were booked after 38 minutes following an off-the-ball incident, while the Glasgow team's captain, Graham Roberts, was shown the yellow card for a foul on Hagi just before half-time.

Steaua continued to play the ball around with composure in the second half, although Rangers seemed to be coping with the attacks more effectively than before the interval.

Roberts and fellow defender Richard Gough strove hard to limited the army side's chances, but McCoist found himself in a lone striking role for most of the time.

Derby holds Tottenham

LONDON (AP) — Derby County gained a valuable point in its bid to avoid relegation Tuesday, holding Tottenham Hotspur to a 0-0 draw in the English First Division soccer league.

In another English First Division game, Southampton drifted towards the danger zone after being held 1-1 at home by Newcastle.

At Tottenham, neither goalkeeper had a shot to save in the entire game. Derby possibly had the best chances to win.

Spur's best chance came in the 51st minute when Terry Fenwick curled the ball just wide of Peter Shilton's goal with a right-foot shot.

Rally season begins in Jordan today

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The 1988 rallying season kicks off in Jordan today with the Jerash rally, first event of the National Rally Championship, pitting most of Jordan's seasoned rally drivers and a heavy sprinkling of newcomers.

Leading the list of the 24 participants in the event are names like His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Hussein, Hani Bisharat, George Khayyat, Nabil Karam — all of them with excellent records of past performances in national as well as international rallying events.

Prince Abdullah has taken a short leave from studies in the United States so he can participate in one of his favourite sports. As driver of car number one of the Royal Jordanian Silk Cut team, Prince Abdullah is looking forward to kicking off the 1988 rally season with a victorious showing in today's



HRH Prince Abdullah 300-kilometre event.

At the same time, competition is expected to be fierce among the top contenders to start off their annual performances with honours in the Jerash Rally. Bisharat, behind the wheel of a Toyota Corolla, is in the pole position in today's event, followed by Khayyat and Khaled Daltal in identical Nissan 240 RS, Karam — Prince Abdullah's teammate in the Royal

Jordanian Silk Cut team — in an Opel Manta identical to the prince, who is seventh in the drive-off list.

There are at least half a dozen novice drivers taking part in the rally, which is scheduled to begin at the Amman Marriott Hotel at 5 p.m. and expected to finish after midnight after a round-trip race to Jerash manoeuvring through special stages as well as road sections.

The Jordan Rally scene has produced five different national champions since 1983, when the championship was initiated under FISA international regulations. No driver has ever claimed the championship twice.

Securing the Jordan championship title does not necessarily mean winning every event, but does involve participation and scoring high points in all but one of the ten championship events, which include one international rally; three national rallies; two hill climbs; three auto tests and a four-wheel drive (4 x 4) international rally.

Cardiff seeks to host Commonwealth Games

LONDON (AP) — The Welsh city of Cardiff officially launched its bid for the 1994 Commonwealth Games Tuesday, pledging its case will not be wrecked by threats of an anti-apartheid boycott.

Following the widespread boycott of the 1986 games in Edinburgh, Scotland, there have been murmurs from some African countries that Auckland in 1990 may too suffer from a walkout.

But Ron Watkiss, vice chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales, said: "Our conscious is clear. Cardiff has been involved in battling against apartheid since 1962. The whole world must know that Cardiff has no sympathy for apartheid whatsoever."

Asked what effect there might be if South African-born runner Zola Budd were to compete for England at a Cardiff Commonwealth Games, Watkiss replied: "She would be bound to have a

knock-on effect. Of course she would. You cannot put your head under a blanket and believe that all your troubles will go away."

"But we are confident that we can stage a successful games which will be agreeable to all countries."

Watkiss believes Wales has a stronger case than either Victoria, Canada, or New Delhi, India, its main rivals for the right to host the games. Both, he said, had put in their bids far later than Cardiff.

"Wales is a smaller nation and I believe that because of this fact, we would have a better chance than Canada or India because many Third World countries are small and would not like to follow one of the bigger countries should they ever bid for the games in the future," he said.

The £176,000 Welsh bid was launched with presentations in Cardiff and London, where Watkiss handed the city's application brochure to Peter Healy, chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Soviet hockey coach resigns

MOSCOW (AP) — Viktor Tikhonov, who coached the Soviet Olympic hockey team to a gold medal at the Calgary Games, has resigned because of criticism by Soviet journalists of his players' previous performance. Soviet news media reported.

The announcement of Tikhonov's resignation was made Sunday at a news conference in Calgary for Soviet journalists by Marat V. Gramov, the chairman of the USSR State Sports Committee and Soviet National Olympic Committee.

Reports on the announcement were carried by the official news agency TASS and the Soviet Sport newspaper.

"Tikhonov made a statement freeing himself from the post of chief trainer of the national USSR team," Soviet Sport wrote. Tikhonov had come under criticism in the past year because the Soviet national team had failed to win any championships in 1987.

"Second place was considered a failure and for any team, any coach, this is an incredible burden to bear," Tikhonov said after last Friday night's 7-1 victory over Sweden that clinched a gold medal for his team.

Fahd inaugurates largest free-span stadium

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd Wednesday inaugurated the King Fahd International Stadium, the largest free-span structure in the world.

The official opening of the stadium coincided with the ninth Gulf Cup soccer championships in which seven teams, representing the Arab countries of the Gulf, are participating.

In a ceremonial message, King Fahd said that "this is eloquent proof of the progress which this country has made in all fields."

He added: "Any construction scheme is a duty performed by the state and carried out with the grateful help of the Saudi

citizen."

There have been hints dropped, at least through the pro-government media, that the king would like to host one of the future Olympic games.

In the immediate future, Saudi Arabia has been selected to host the World Youth Soccer Cup finals in 1989. Preliminary group matches will be played in four centres in the kingdom with the finals to be held at the newly inaugurated stadium.

The multimillion-dollar stadium can accommodate some 75,000 spectators, with the design owing something to the traditional shape of a bedouin tent but

merged with the host advanced engineering technology.

In contrast with comparable European stadiums, the King Fahd International Stadium is equipped with facilities for autonomous operation even in the event of a public utilities failure.

The exterior of the stadium is in the shape of a circle with a diameter of 290 metres. The bowl contains the playing field with natural grass, the 400-metre running track, the long jump pits.

The roof membrane is stretched between 24 tent-shaped peaks, each supported by a 60-metre high vertical mast. The covering is a teflon-coated fabric.

FIFA to announce World Cup venue on July 4

GENEVA (Agencies) — The announcement of whether Brazil, Morocco or the United States will host the 1994 soccer World Cup finals has been postponed by four days to July 4, FIFA said Tuesday.

The world soccer body's executive committee said the date, originally June 30, was pushed back to allow the three host candidates more time to present their bids.

FIFA's 158 members federations will meet for their regular congress on July 1-2 in Zurich, Switzerland, where FIFA is based.

The executive committee also reiterated its objection to the authorisation of players' agents and said it was drafting instructions on the issue for its affiliates. The panel's decisions were announced in a statement transmitted to Geneva after a meeting Tuesday in Riyadh.

Shin pads compulsory

FIFA also made shin pads compulsory in all of its competitions, partly to protect players from AIDS transmission through bloody injuries on the playing field.

The rule applies to FIFA-organised tournaments, such as the World Cup and Intercontinental Youth Championships, and their qualifying rounds.

The federation's medical committee proposed the measure last November, warning that injured players are often treated with unsterile equipment like wet sponges that risk passing on AIDS through blood contact. Shin injuries are the most common in soccer, FIFA said.

Becker, Cash push ahead in Champions Cup tourney

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — A pair of Wimbledon champions third seed Boris Becker of West Germany and fourth-seeded Australian Pat Cash — posted straight set wins Tuesday to advance to the third round of the \$702,500 Champions Cup tennis tournament.

Cash, the current Wimbledon champion, easily overpowered hard-hitting Frenchman Thierry Tulasne 6-3, 6-4.

Becker, who won Wimbledon in 1985 and 1986, took his opening match of the tournament by the same 6-3, 6-4 score but had to struggle for the victory over left-handed American Tim Wilkison.

The top eight seeds received first round byes.

Becker, the defending champion, had more problems with his

own serve than with his erratic opponent. The West German served nine double faults in the match.

The third seed's play was also affected as he became increasingly irritated when Wilkison pumped his fists to celebrate winning big points.

Becker fell behind 1-3 in the first set before Wilkison began missing shots and the West German took command.

Becker ran off five straight games and ended the first set with one of his four aces.

After trading breaks at the start of the second set, Becker came up with a crucial service break in the seventh game and, holding that advantage, served out the set.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernard Maren

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AFINE MESS

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

LEGEND

Performances 7:15, 9:15, 11:15, 13:15



Cinema **NIJOM CINEMA** "Formerly Opera" Tel: 675573

THE VALS

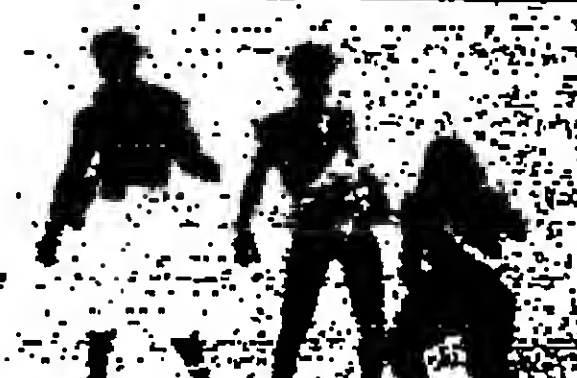
Performances 7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 13:30



Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

KNIGHTS OF THE CITY

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Jordan to produce veterinary vaccines in second half of '88

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture's centre for the production of veterinary vaccines is due to start production in the second half of 1988, according to the ministry's Animal Wealth Department Director Chassoub Asali.

He said that the centre's annual production would be 170 million doses of which 100 million would be used in the Kingdom and the rest would be marketed in other Arab states.

Asali said that the centre will produce vaccines for poultry, cows and sheep and later for other animals.

The Arab region is a good market for veterinary vaccines and annually consumes 800 million doses, Asali added.

He said that the Ministry of Agriculture expects the centre to produce more doses in accordance with the needs of other Arab countries.

Minister approves Mafrag budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Yusef Al Jaber has endorsed a JD 1.193 million budget for the Mafrag municipality for 1988.

The funds will be spent on building and asphalted roads, setting up a car park and a shopping centre and lighting streets.

Mafrag municipality has already embarked on paving and maintaining roads and road shoulders in different parts of the city.

According to Mayor Abdullah Basbous, the project will cost JD 261,000.

Qasr to spend JD 10.2 million during 5-year development plan

KARAK (Petra) — A total of JD 10.2 million will be spent on development projects within the Qasr district in Karak governorate, as included in the 1986-1990 five year development plan, according to district Governor Fahim Nawawseh.

Nawawseh said that funds will be spent on schools, postal services, agricultural schemes, health and social services, roads and a sports centre.

Mazar district, near Karak, spent a total of JD 279,000 on road projects, according to Public Works Department Director Ghazi Madadha.

He said that roads built with these funds covered 21 kilometres.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Treasury bills and bonds eclipsed trading in shares Wednesday as a total of 190 treasury bills and bonds were traded for a total of JD 1,863,730.

Overall trading in shares amounted to 472,794 shares for JD 418,426 spread over 458 contracts.

Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries recorded 212,250 of its shares changing hands for a volume of JD 50,113 involving 85 contracts.

Intermediate Petrochemical Industries registered a volume of JD 67,692 from 45,495 traded shares spread over 53 contracts.

Other companies which showed either a high volume or a high number of shares were: Chemical Industries (JD 37,414 - 21,946 shares), Aladdin Industries (JD 32,626 - 23,850 shares), Universal Chemical Industries (JD 26,264 - 14,100 shares) and Bank of Jordan (JD 27,755 - 1,702 shares).

Trading covered 45 companies and prices were mostly steady. The parallel market involved 8,049 shares for JD 3,387.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have the energy and the opportunity to get right to the heart of any problems which are facing you. Keep your best foot forward today as your energy level may cause you to become rather excited.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Give your best effort to your daily activities, no matter how mundane they may seem. You would be wise to take better care of your health.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) This is a good time to have some decided successes in anything of a creative nature. Make sure your appearance is at its best today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Try to make your home more charming, comfortable and smooth-running, as you will want to entertain some important guests there soon.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Give greater attention to the details of an important financial matter. Some long-distance calls could bring you greater benefits.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study your bookkeeping records, then make collections and pay your bills. It may be wise to revise your budget at this time, also.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have many duties to handle, but take care of them one by one so no mistakes are made. Carry through with a request from your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) A new project you have started with a close friend needs further investigation, so pay particular attention to the details involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Avoid an acquaintance who expects too much of you. Pay attention to your personal needs, and also to the needs of your family.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a good time to do some civic work which will not only make you feel good about yourself, but will add to your reputation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Carefully review the details of a new project and make sure there are no small errors, especially mistakes in financial areas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Review your liabilities and assets so you will know exactly where you stand. Be sure to take care of the duties your mate expects you to do.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be more cooperative with an associate, and the partnership will become more equal and profitable. Be sure to drive carefully tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY He or she will have the ability to set up realistic schedules and long-range goals, and then proceed toward them without much hindrance. Any career connected with plans, diagrams or electronics would be ideal for your precocious progeny.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an extremely bad time to take any risks, especially of a financial nature, which could severely hurt your situation. It would be advisable to double-check everything today, then do so again.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A careless co-worker could cause you a big set-back and, although this may annoy you, you should find out the reason for this person's actions.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) This is not a good day to rely on the luck of the draw. Instead, stick with tried-and-true methods. Go along with your mate's wishes tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Keep out of arguments at home and with others, since a royal row would probably ensue. Go out and visit a bed-ridden friend this evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Much care should be exercised while in motion today, especially while driving. Don't make any unpleasant wisecracks.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Curb your spending, and try to save money in case of an emergency. This is not a good time to begin any long-term projects at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may feel as if you are "in a rut," but making any drastic changes would not be wise at this time. Don't be critical of your good friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Don't lose your temper if your mate is going against your wishes, as there is

Committee to meet minister on Jordanian trade matters

AMMAN (J.T.) — The executive council of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) Tuesday decided to form a committee which will open talks with Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa on a number of matters concerning the Jordanian chambers of commerce.

The committee will discuss with Tabbaa the possibility of setting up an Islamic chamber of commerce, matters related to the military and civil service consumer corporations in Jordan and a proposed loan for the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation.

According to a statement, the council decided to inform Turkey that an FJCC team would visit Turkey to sign a protocol for the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Turkish committee to help promote trade and economic ties between the two countries.

The council discussed a number of other topics of concern to the chamber and decided to delegate the federation's Secretary General Amin Al Hussein to attend the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce meeting due to open in Paris March 25.

Asfour holds talks with merchants, clearing firms

FJCC President Mohammad Asfour, who is also board chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday chaired meeting to discuss problems encountered by companies specialising in clearing and transporting goods and others engaged in the import-export of clothes.

Agreements were reached at these meetings on maintaining contacts on developments and that working papers should be submitted by different sectors outlining the problems and the proposed solutions.

Jordan, World Bank discuss financing TCC programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects for the World Bank's assistance in carrying out telecommunication projects in Jordan were discussed here Wednesday by Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan and the World Bank delegate Muhsein Khalil.

The minister said Jordan would need JD 14 million in loans to carry out such projects and to acquire skills and expertise for promoting the work of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and for modernising its operations.

TCC Director General Mohammad Shahid Ismail was present at the meeting.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| One Sterling | 1.7730/40 | U.S. dollar | 1.2560/70 |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.6883/88 | Canadian dollar | 1.8941/51 |
| | 1.3940/50 | Deutsche marks | 35.24/29 |
| | 5.1120/50 | Dutch guilders | 1243/1244 |
| | 128.57/67 | Swiss francs | 5.9915/65 |
| | 5.9915/65 | Belgian francs | 6.3520/70 |
| | 6.4450/4500 | French francs | 431.50/432.00 |
| One ounce of gold | 431.50/432.00 | Italian lire | |
| | | Japanese yen | |
| | | Swedish crowns | |
| | | Norwegian crowns | |
| | | Danish crowns | |
| | | U.S. dollars | |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — U.K. share prices stood close to the day's highs in late trading, with the Financial Times/Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares struggling to make a major inroad above the 1,800 level, dealers said.

The index at 1530 GMT was up a net 21.8 points at 1,803.7 after peaking just 0.7 point higher at 1503 GMT. One dealer said the 1800 level was a major upside resistance level. "It's going to take some fairly spectacular news or a big surge on Wall Street for us to break through," he said. The FTSE has bounced off 1800 five times so far this year.

Volume at 1500 GMT was 395 million shares. The opening on Wall Street was not particularly inspiring, with the Dow Jones industrial average up just seven points in early business. Share traders here are forecasting that the U.S. market will close little changed.

Dealers said the London market was to some extent in the grip of the traditional pre-budget rally but more muted than in previous years.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Amman Financial Market extends trading hours for two days a week

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman Financial Market (AFM) will stretch its working hours into the evening to allow for broader investments by local and Arab investors.

AFM General Manager Hashem Sabbagh told the Jordan Times that the market will now be open Tuesday and Wednesday evening of every week for one hour between 5-6 p.m. "These extra hours will allow for a greater number of investors, whether local or expatriates working in Arab Gulf states," Sabbagh said, adding that expatriates and Arab investors would now be able to contact AFM after its working hours from their respective countries of residence.

Banks opt to sell Saudi loans at steep discount

BAHRAIN (R) — Banks are starting to write off large portions of their loans to private companies in Saudi Arabia despite a tougher government line against bad debtors, Gulf-based bankers said Tuesday.

They said a government committee set up in September to hear disputes between banks and borrowers had passed a series of judgements favouring the banks.

But this had not stopped banks opting to sell their debts at a steep discount and, in effect, writing them off, they said.

"We still have a very negative perception of our ultimate ability to recover loans through the courts," said one banker.

Saudi and international banks were forced to make heavy provisions against many of their loans to private companies in Saudi Arabia after a recession caused by falling oil revenues delayed debt repayments.

Bankers claimed many debtors had the money to pay but were protected by an Islamic judicial system which was unsympathetic to Western banking practices.

But they said a legal committee formed under the auspices of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, the central bank, was tackling the problem and most of its rulings had been in the banks' favour.

Initial fear that local Islamic

Soviet economist forecasts massive job shifts by 2000

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — A leading Soviet economist said Tuesday that 16 million Soviets, including 30 to 50 per cent of all government bureaucrats, will be forced to change jobs by the year 2000 as a result of economic reforms.

"By our calculations by the year 2000 about 16 million people will have changed jobs," said Abel Aganbeyan, chief economist of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a key advisor to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He said structural changes resulting from Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms will cause massive worker dislocation.

"Starting in 1989 we're going to take real steps to reform the whole price system of the country," Aganbeyan said, adding the changes would soon affect employment, including the reduction of jobs in local, regional and central governments.

"So we're going to reducing by 30 to 50 per cent the (number of) bureaucrats working there," he told a Minnesota civic group.

But he added: "We don't think there's going to be any unemployment because there's a tremendous demand for labour throughout the country."

Bonn likely to wipe off \$1.2b of aid repayments

BONN (R) — West Germany is likely to wipe off about two billion marks (\$1.2 billion) in aid repayments from among the world's poorest countries, Development Aid Minister Hans Klein told the newspaper Bild.

In an interview he implied that countries with communist governments would not benefit.

Klein said even helplessly indebted countries had to be helped with cash and over the years Bonn had wiped off 4.2 billion marks (\$2.5 billion) of debts by

some of the world's poorest countries.

"We also will probably have to ease the situation of other Third World states, too," he said. "This will mean a magnitude of more than two billion marks."

Asked which countries would benefit, Klein said: "I can't name them yet, otherwise they would all be queuing around me. But essentially it will involve countries in Africa and Latin America."

Computer firms unveil new models

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AP) — Three companies unveiled new high-powered computers Tuesday ranging from a \$70,000 "personal supercomputer" to a \$1.3 million mini-supercomputer designed to take on industry leaders.

Apollo Computer Inc. said it was producing a workstation for scientists and engineers with supercomputer power that outperforms anything in its price range: \$69,000 to \$130,000.

Analysts said the domain series 10000 returns the Chelmsford, Massachusetts-based company to

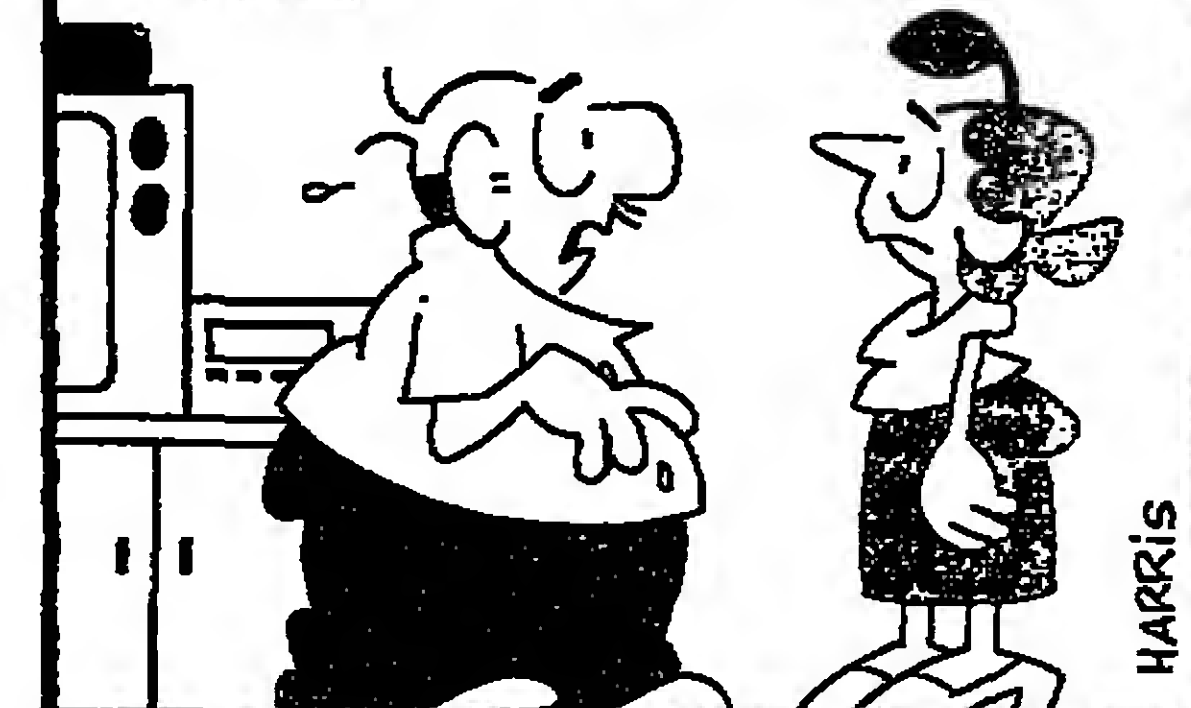
the forefront of the highly competitive field of small, powerful desktop workstations.

Ardent Computer Corp., a Sunnyvale, California-based start-up, announced its first product, a graphics supercomputer in about the same price and performance range as Apollo's.

Convex Computer Corp. of Richardson, Texas, aiming at a more expensive portion of the market, unveiled a more powerful new line of mini-supercomputers it hopes will cut into Cray Research Inc.'s domination of that market.

THE BETTER HALF

By Morris

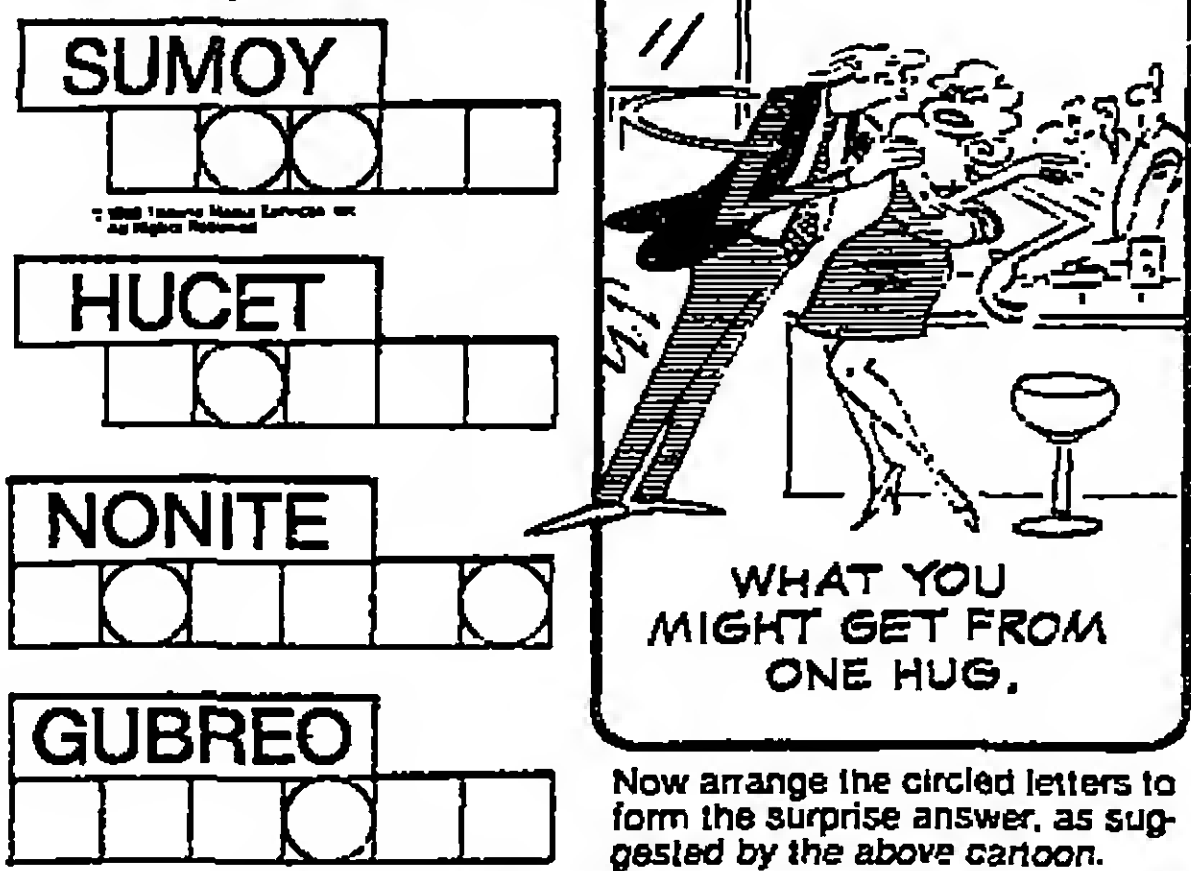


"I think I hooked up my VCR wrong. When I pushed fast-forward, I was transported to the year 2073!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HURRY POKER IGUANA SUBTLY

Answer: What the lamebrain said when his lawyer told him he had lost his suit—'I'LL BUY ANOTHER

Castro urges solidarity with Panama

PANAMA CITY, (Agencies) — Cuban president Fidel Castro has urged Latin America to show solidarity with Panama's new government, saying deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle betrayed his country.

Castro, in an interview on Panama's state-run television Tuesday night, expressed support for Armed Forces Chief General Manuel Noriega and for military-backed rule in Panama that began with a coup in 1968.

He said Latin American nations should recognise Panama's new government as "it is a question of the independence and sovereignty of a country which is one of our brothers."

Castro said Delvalle was in league with a U.S. plot to ensure Washington retained control of the Panama Canal beyond the

year 2000, when it is due to be run solely by Panama.

He said Delvalle was conspiring with Washington and said the attempt to sack Noriega was "a true treason towards the country."

"We used to treat him with all respect as president of the republic, but we had no confidence in him," Castro said in the three-hour interview, taped on Monday.

Delvalle was sacked by the legislative assembly and replaced by Manuel Solis Palma as president hours after Delvalle tried to fire

Noriega. Noriega was indicted in February by two U.S. grand juries in Florida on drug trafficking charges.

Many countries, led by the United States, continue to back Delvalle as president. Delvalle is in hiding in Panama while his wife and children have taken refuge in the U.S. ambassador's residence in Panama City.

Castro's government has been portrayed as an international outcast by Washington since Cuba's 1959 revolution but it has clawed back recognition from many Latin American countries in recent years.

Castro said it was an error by Panamanians to appoint people like Delvalle to the presidency "who are capable of stabbing the country with a dagger."

"There can be no comparison of the role of the armed forces in Panama and those in other countries," Castro added. "This is not a repressive government. This is not a government against the country."

A former aide to Noriega, Jose Blandon, testified in the United States last month that Castro and Noriega both had ties to the Medellin cartel of Colombian drug traffickers.

On Tuesday President Reagan put Panama on a blacklist of drug-trafficking nations but decided to wait before imposing any new sanctions against it.

Reagan cut all economic and military aid to Panama last July in a feud with Noriega over his refusal to allow real civilian rule. But U.S. officials said Tuesday's

move was designed to keep the spotlight on Noriega's alleged role in the illicit drug trade.

Noriega has been criticised for a lack of ideology. Opposition leaders describe him as a fascist but say they fear his communist leanings.

Castro likened the situation in Panama to Argentina when it lost the Falkland Islands war with Britain in 1982.

Latin American countries rallied to express support with Argentina during the conflict, even though the country was run by military dictators, Castro said.

There was more reason to support Panama against the current U.S. aggression as Panama's style of government already had wide respect in the non-aligned movement and in the United Nations, he said.

Manila envoy warns of bloodbath

MANILA (R) — The Philippines faces a "terrible bloodbath" if Muslim separatists win recognition from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), a government envoy was quoted Wednesday as saying.

House of Representatives Speaker Ramon Mitra, sent to Saudi Arabia last month to lobby against such a move, said large-scale fighting would break out if the OIC granted membership to the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), giving it the status of a government in exile.

"OIC membership for the MNLF would mean its recognition as a sovereign state," Mitra was quoted as saying by several Manila newspapers. "That would certainly mean war."

"MNLF membership in the OIC would inevitably lead to a terrible bloodbath," he added.

Mitra, who discussed the application with OIC Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada, said an OIC committee was expected to meet this week in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to consider the issue.

Rebel spokesmen have said they expect the OIC to approve the MNLF's application to upgrade its current observer status to full membership of the Jeddah-based organisation.

They claim the support of 35 of the OIC's 48 members. Diplomats said Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei — Muslim members of the Association of South East Asian Nations, which also includes the Philippines — opposed the move.

Mitra said the MNLF rebellion was a domestic problem.

The government has said that more than 50,000 people died at the height of the Muslim separatist rebellion in the southern region of Mindanao in the 1970s.

The country's new 1987 constitution pledges limited autonomy for large areas on Mindanao and surrounding islands where most of the Philippines' seven million Muslims live.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Duchess hits secretary with a bottle

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Duchess of York Tuesday hit her private secretary over the head with a bottle — part of a fun-filled tour of a movie studio's special effects department. The Duchess, known to the crowds as Fergie, also chatted to a robot and laughingly watched the Duke, Prince Andrew, gasping and clenching a guardrail on a roller-coaster ride. It was all part of the Hollywood World of Special Effects, shown to the Duke and Duchess on the fourth day of their nine-day visit to California to help promote a British cultural festival. The outgoing Duchess, who is expecting her first child in August, promptly called over her private secretary and gave him a hefty thump with one of the bottles. She laughed uproariously as it smashed into a thousand pieces.

Man quotes Freud, seduces 16, gets life

BEIJING (AP) — A man who seduced women by quoting Freud and promising marriage was convicted of 16 counts of rape and sentenced to life imprisonment, an official report said Tuesday. Liu Delu, 40, was sentenced by the Beijing Intermediate People's Court on Monday, said the legal daily (Fazhi Ribao). The daily on Feb. 11 ran a full-page, detailed account of Liu's crimes, describing how the factory worker played with the affections of older single women desperate to get married. Liu surrendered to authorities last summer. The paper did not say why he turned himself in.

President Kennedy's daughter expecting

NEW YORK (AP) — Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, only daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy, reportedly is expecting a baby. A photograph of an obviously pregnant Schlossberg, who married Edwin Schlossberg in July 1986, appeared in Friday's daily news. The news did not say when the baby is expected. Schlossberg, 30, was photographed Monday arriving at the Equitable Building in New York to give a speech in place of her uncle, Sen. Edward Kennedy, who had been sidelined by a bad back. The baby would be the first grandchild of older single women desperate to get married. Liu surrendered to authorities last summer. The paper did not say why he turned himself in.

Man's electrical current knocks wife

PEKING (R) — A Chinese factory worker's body has started emitting electric currents powerful enough to knock over his wife, the official New China News Agency said Tuesday. Xue Dibo, 36, began feeling "strange sensations" this year and knocked his wife over with an electric shock when he touched her hair early last month, the agency said. Xue, who lives in Urumqi, the capital of China's far west Xinjiang province, also feels a powerful shock when he touches anything metal, it added. He is being examined by doctors.

Besser, of The Three Stooges, dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Joe Besser, who played the shaven-headed Curly in The Three Stooges comedy team for four years, died at his Hollywood home Tuesday at the age of 80, a family spokesman said. The spokesman said Besser had been ill for six months, but he did not disclose the nature of the illness. The Three Stooges, the knockabout comedians who made pounding each other on the head an art form, turned out hundreds of short films in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. The original trio of Larry, Moe and Curly consisted of Larry Fine, Moe Howard and his brother, Jerry (Curly) Howard.

37 killed in 2 air crashes

MOSCOW (R) — Twenty people died when a Soviet passenger plane crashed in the west Siberian oil city of Surgut, the weekly Moscow News reported Wednesday.

Thirteen people are still in critical condition after Saturday's crash, it said, quoting the chief doctor of a hospital in the regional capital, Tyumen.

Moscow News said a government commission was investigating the disaster but added more people could have been saved if Surgut airport firemen had been better equipped.

In Johannesburg, all 17 people aboard a small passenger aircraft were feared dead when it crashed near Johannesburg Tuesday airline officials said.

The officials said the Brazilian-made Bandeirante Turboprop airliner crashed and burst into flames in the industrial suburb of Germiston, not far from Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport.

Azerbaijani refugees to return home

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A commission has been established to help return Soviet Azerbaijani refugees who have fled their homes in Armenia during ethnic unrest there, an Azerbaijani radio network said.

The refugees who fled to Azerbaijan will be met by Soviet officials at the border between the two republics and welcomed back to Armenia, Baku radio said Tuesday.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said it was unknown how many Azerbaijanis had fled Armenia during the recent disturbances in the troubled Transcaucasian republics over the redrawing of regional boundaries.

Some 160,800 Azerbaijanis live in Armenia, a republic of 3.1 million.

There are also some 475,500 Armenians living in Azerbaijan, where the total population is 6.3 million.

Two people have been killed in

ethnic unrest in Azerbaijan, and a curfew was imposed Monday in the coastal city of Sumgait after rioting between Azerbaijanis and Armenians there.

No violence has been reported in Armenia. But hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in the capital, Yerevan, last week for the return to Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian region administered by Azerbaijan.

On Monday, Armenian communist party leader Karen Demichyan said in a television address that some Azerbaijanis had fled his republic "due to various rumours that have spread through a number of localities."

He did not elaborate, according to BBC monitoring of his speech.

Baku radio said the commission's main job was "finding out how many refugees there were and their present whereabouts, as well as arranging their organised



return to towns and villages in Soviet Armenia," the BBC monitors reported.

The radio added that the refugees may travel by air, rail or car as they choose, and all their problems of food and medical

assistance would be solved. It gave telephone numbers for refugees to call.

The refugee commission was headed by Azerbaijan Central Committee Secretary Gasan Gasanov.

The rioting in Sumgait Sunday highlighted the Azerbaijani side of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and undermined Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's dilemma in finding a generally acceptable solution.

The only previous occasion since World War II when long-time Moscow residents could recall even talk of a military-supervised curfew in the Soviet Union was in 1960 when there were widespread reports of "bread riots" in Novo-Cherkassk.

There has never been any official confirmation of the reports, which circulated among Muscovites at the time, according to which troops clashed with demonstrators in the north Caucasian city.

Bomb blasts at start of Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (R) — Hundreds of bomb explosions shook Dhaka and other cities in Bangladesh Wednesday at the start of 36-hour general strike aimed at disrupting parliamentary elections.

Steel-helmeted riot police guarded government buildings and paramilitary troops patrolled empty streets in trucks mounted with guns.

A coalition of 21 opposition parties, which is boycotting Thursday's elections, called the stoppage from 6 a.m. (midnight GMT) Wednesday to prevent people from voting.

They have demanded that president Hossain Mohammad

Ershad, a former general who seized power in a bloodless 1982 coup, resign and hand over power to a caretaker government which could hold fresh elections.

Ershad, who has refused to quit, deployed 9,000 soldiers to support police and home guards assigned to keep peace during the polls.

Leaders of the two main opposition parties, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Begum Khaleda Zia, have vowed to disrupt the vote "at all costs."

Most shops in Dhaka were closed Wednesday. Trains and

river ferries stopped. The national airline, Bangladesh Biman, said it hoped to operate all scheduled flights, although some might be delayed.

The government ordered offices, banks, schools and colleges closed for the elections, a move which Home (interior) Ministry officials said would lessen violence.

Police said there were no immediate reports of casualties from Wednesday's bomb explosions. "But we expect more violence later today and tomorrow," one officer said.

Two men in Dhaka were blown

apart early Tuesday when a bomb they were making went off.

In southern port city of Chittagong, hundreds of bombs exploded Tuesday night as opposition protesters clashed with police and burned at least six vehicles.

Bombings and clashes were also reported from other places around the country, Dhaka police officials said.

More than 150 people were killed and 8,000 injured during February 10 rural council elections in the worst violence of Ershad's presidency.

Ershad restored civilian rule in

American blacks worse off

WASHINGTON (R) — America's poor urban blacks are worse off now than they were 20 years ago, when a key presidential commission warned of a growing chasm between black and white, according to a study released Tuesday.

"Poverty is worse now than it was 20 years ago," said the report, a follow-up to the 1968 Kerner Commission created by President Lyndon Johnson in response to black slum riots that shook the country.

That commission declared: "Our nation is moving toward two societies. One black, one white — separate and unequal."

The trend has persisted and in

key ways worsened, according to "the Kerner report twenty years later" by the private commission on the cities, a liberal anti-poverty group.

Another report issued Tuesday said more than one-fourth of America's estimated 20 million Hispanics live below the poverty line. That study was by the Southwest Voter Research Institute, a Texas organisation that monitors and encourages Hispanic political activity in the Southwestern United States.

"For some Latino families, (employment) income may have declined to the point where, even after supplemented by govern-

ment benefits, it no longer brings them above the poverty threshold," it said.

The original Kerner Commission inspired reformers to fight poverty and racism.

On the positive side, the black middle class has grown and the number of blacks in important political posts and professional jobs has mushroomed since 1968, the report said.

But, it said, blacks and other minority groups, who made progress against discrimination and poverty through the 1970s, had been especially hard hit by the country's subsequent economic woes and by social programme cuts of the Reagan administration.

"America is becoming two societies... there is a large and growing underclass in America — principally blacks and Hispanics in the central cities. There are more economically isolated, more socially alienated, than ever before," the new report said, echoing the original Kerner Commission.

According to the report, the decaying cores of U.S. cities were rife with "quiet riots" — unemployment, crime, school and housing deterioration, and disintegration of families.

The report called for social programmes to create jobs, more spending on welfare, and more active steps to fight housing and job discrimination and de facto segregation of schools.

"We must bring the problems of race, unemployment, and poverty back into the public consciousness, put them back on the public agenda," the study concluded.

Jackson shows strong

MONTEPELIER, Vermont (R) — Black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson continues to prove that he can attract white voters in the U.S. primary elections.

He took a surprisingly strong second place in the Vermont primary Tuesday, pulling in 27 per cent of the Democratic Party vote in the state with the smallest black population in America.

Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis won the Democratic contest in the non-binding primary with 56 per cent of the vote. Among Republicans, Vice-President George Bush won 49 per cent, nine points ahead of Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, in the last contest before the presidential race heads south for the biggest delegate contests.

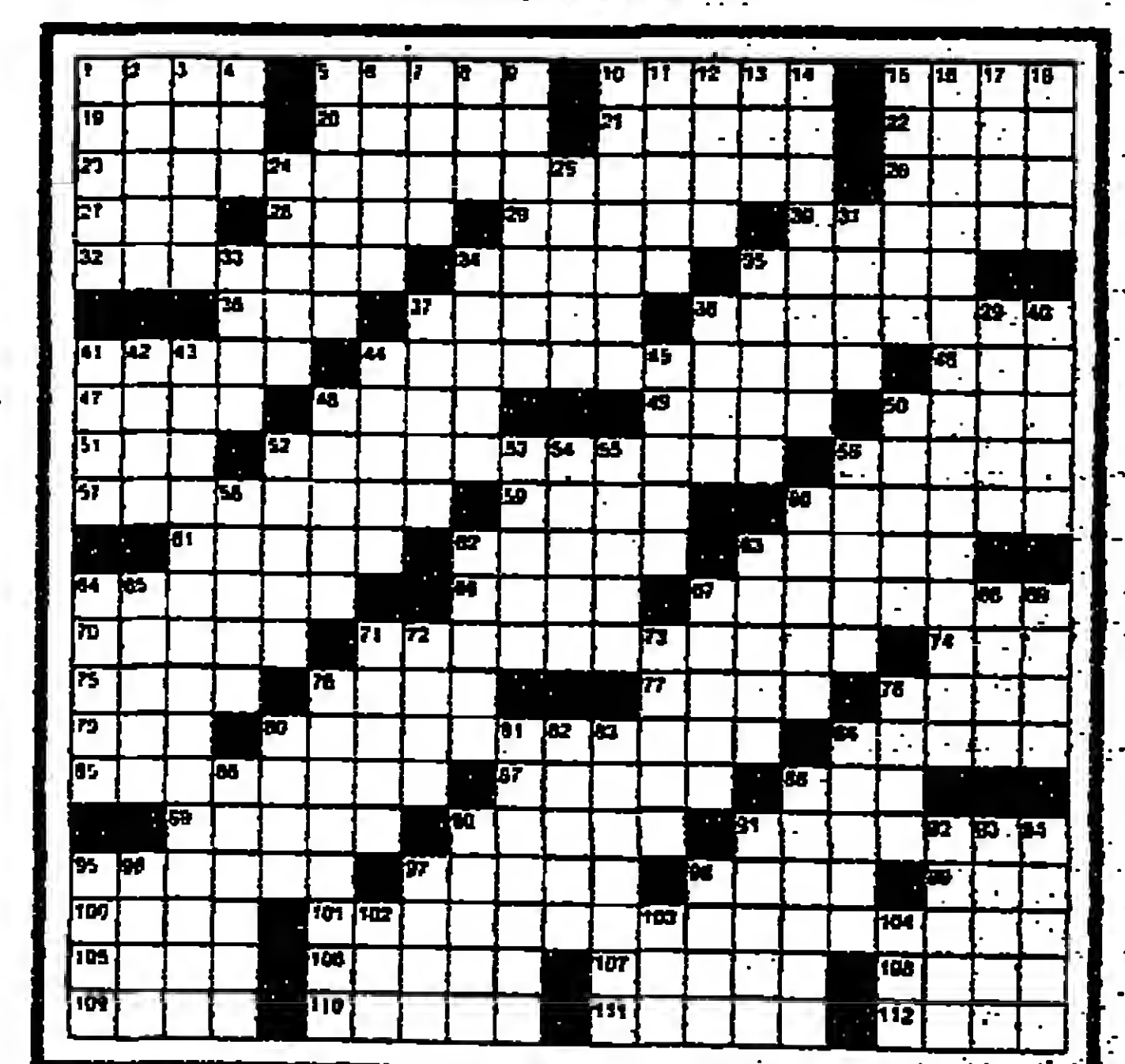
Primary elections, part of the presidential selection process, are held in individual states so that voters can select delegates to support their preferred candidates at the national party conventions in the summer.

But the Vermont primary means little because the state's delegates to the national convention are chosen at party caucuses in April, and Tuesday's vote is non-binding on those caucuses.

The Vermont results add to Jackson's strong showings in mostly-white states. He won 11 per cent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 9.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkin



Last Week's Cryptograms

- "Silence is golden." so you never get it in places like elevators, supermarkets or department stores anymore.
- A lawful deficit is what results when congressmen get ahead of the U.S. stat.
- Many complex complexes such as xenophobia perplex our best psychiatrists.
- Not puffed feel the Supreme Court reflects the times.

CRYPTOGRAMS

- XEBGXEO STAG ITQOCCH NGA NEEBUF
MQCN FENG OTX IEXQFN TOR NEIGH
NGA FCTXXQEO FRM AGR. —By Connie Samuels
- WIOFECVWVSEZFF ZGIEVQ TSIRRX ECTE
WGI HTOTIQ HTO AREX WO AEDX ZGZFI
TOX XRTX. —By Gordon Miller
- LMTLS WPUH PYS WAS FUSH EUST WEAST
TRIM WAS ERYSHWH RE ELY ELWYS. —By Ted E. Jones
- DJTWHHW KWJEM LCE YLMEHSD FVCEI
SA PLHM YCADHW GJFW. —By Ken



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 95 ♠ AK9 A763 ♣ J62
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?
- Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQ63 ♠ AS 762 ♠ KQ9
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 1 Pass 1
What action do you take?
- Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ63 ♠ KQJ95 87 ♣ 4
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
- Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AK95 ♠ Q72 ♠ K762 ♠ 9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 1 Pass 1
What do you bid now?
- Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AK95 ♠ Q72 ♠ K762 ♠ 9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 1 Pass 1
What do you bid now?
- Look for answers on Monday.